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THE SEARCH FOR HAGUE'S BABES
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Call for 'common economic roof'

EU socialists set out vision of harmony

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A MANIFESTO for a socialist Europe with more harmonised taxes and more closely shared economic policies, including higher public spending, was launched last night by Britain and the 10 other left-of-centre governments that now dominate the European Union.

The programme for "The New European Way - Economic Reform in the Framework of Monetary Union", calls itself a "set of common rules for the economic and social well-being of European citizens".

Although in drafting since early 1996, the release of the programme has taken on special force with the leftward swing in Europe since the election of Germany's Red-Green coalition in September.

Drafted partly by British officials, the manifesto blends New Labour-style rhetoric on reform with promises of closer budgetary and tax co-ordination that spring from the old-left socialists of Germany and France.

The goal of the new socialist Europe should be "strong and sustainable economic development and full employment", it says.

Among its more controversial demands is that the European Central Bank, the manager of the euro, should take into account the need for growth and not just stopping inflation, when it sets monetary policy.

Presenting the paper, Rudolf Edlinger, the Austrian Finance Minister, said the governments in monetary union were determined to push for more tax harmonisation, including higher taxes on capital and lower charges on wages.

Monetary union, which starts on January 1, would "make it imperative to start co-ordinating the sphere of taxation," he said. "The social democratic governments will also have to look at harmonising prices and wage policy."

Herr Edlinger, whose country holds the current EU presidency, said the left-wing paper amounted to a "common economic roof...for a common house of Europe".

The manifesto is seen

British beef ban to be lifted today

The European Union embargo on British beef exports is expected to be lifted in Brussels today, allowing deboned beef to be sold abroad from February.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, has also indicated that he hopes to lift the domestic ban on the sale of beef on the bone in February or March.

among continental left-wing parties as a vehicle that is being used by Britain to associate itself more closely with the 11 states that are about to embrace the euro.

The document was issued last night as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, met Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, and other socialist ministers ahead of the first session of the EU's economic chiefs since the German election greatly reinforced the left-wing tide in EU Government.

The first "Red Ecofin", as the new left-dominated council has been dubbed, is to start after a session of the Euro-11 group of single currency states, from which Mr Brown is excluded.

Today's Ecofin will see a first showdown between Britain - along with five other northern EU states that want to freeze the EU budget at the turn of the century - and the poorer southern nations, which are demanding a big rise in spending.

The Brussels Commission is pushing for a sharp rise in the current €60-billion-a-year budget, while Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and others are determined to keep the cash at current levels as a way of staunching their already heavy net contributions.

British spokesmen insisted that the *New European Way*, which was unchanged from a draft reported by *The Times* last week, amounted to no break with existing Labour policy. However, some British officials have made no secret of

their qualms over some of the detail. This is especially the case over taxation, where the Government has been trying to temper EU enthusiasm for stopping Governments indulging in "unfair" competition with excessively low charges in business and other fields.

The paper calls for "further efforts to be undertaken to avoid harmful tax competition among the member states". It also calls for international efforts to impose minimum taxes on savings income as a way of enabling the EU to impose its own, without driving capital out of the area.

The manifesto contains little echo of Germany's recent flirtation with the notion of breaking the sacred rules on budget deficits inside monetary union. But while calling for fiscal discipline, it says there must be flexibility over deficits to allow higher public spending during periods of economic downturn.

The manifesto contains no mention of a common wages policy, but Herr Edlinger's mention of the subject reflected a push now being led by Herr Lafontaine, for closer co-ordination of wage agreements across industry in the euro zone.

This would require the creation of some cross-border collective bargaining between employers and unions - an idea that would probably be anathema to the British Government.

The document has already been criticised as bland and insufficiently socialist by some Nordic, German and French officials of the left parties in the European parliament.

The drafters said it had to be fairly unambiguous if it was to embrace a camp that ranges from Tony Blair - who is seen as a virtual conservative in Paris and Bonn - to Massimo D'Alema, the former Communist leader who now runs Italy.

Tory Eurosceptics last night declared that the plan would lead to job losses and higher taxation. Michael Trend, the shadow spokesman on Europe, said: "The lurch to the left will increase taxes, hamper industry and destroy jobs in Britain and across Europe."



Jim Threapleton delights the crowd with a kiss for Kate Winslet after their wedding

Kate Winslet's secret comes out

BY ROBIN YOUNG

KATE WINSLET and Jim Threapleton were married yesterday at a parish church in front of coachloads of guests.

They had tried to keep the ceremony secret, but in the end a team of security guards had to be called in to guard All Saints' Church in Miss Winslet's home town of Reading.

The Oscar-winning Miss Winslet, 23, sped up to the church in a Mercedes with

blackout windows. She offered only a brief glimpse of her cream tassel gown and Asian-style headdress as she took the two steps into the church, followed by four attendants.

Mr Threapleton, a 25-year-old assistant film director, was standing at the altar awaiting his bride, watched by 150 guests and celebrities who had arrived on a fleet of coaches.

Fifty minutes later the beaming couple appeared at the

church door and kissed before walking along a makeshift corridor formed by guests who threw rose petals at their feet.

Mr Threapleton, wearing a blue collarless suit, mouthed: "She's my wife, she's my wife."

As the couple prepared to leave for the reception, the bride wound down the car window to ask for cigarettes. She then lit up and declared: "It has been a wonderful day. I am so happy to be married to Jim."

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Tortured man freed after family pay £17,000 ransom

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A BUSINESSMAN who was cleared of murder last month was freed yesterday after a 30-hour kidnap ordeal during which he was tortured by an armed gang demanding £100,000 ransom.

Charles Seiga, 58, was scalded, beaten and forced to make a series of telephone calls with a gun held to his head. He was freed when his brother handed over the second of two payments totalling £17,000.

Two men, aged 28 and 29, were arrested at a house in Wavertree, Liverpool, early yesterday and two guns seized.

Police believe that the kidnaping may have been connected to Mr Seiga's trial at which he was cleared of murdering George Bromley, 36, who organised nightclub doormen. Mr Bromley was shot as he dined at Mr Seiga's home in West Derby, Liverpool.



Charles Seiga with his student daughter Britt yesterday

Police believe that the kidnaping may have been connected to Mr Seiga's trial at which he was cleared of murdering George Bromley, 36, who organised nightclub doormen. Mr Bromley was shot as he dined at Mr Seiga's home in West Derby, Liverpool.

At one point during the ransom negotiations, there were suggestions that if the family could not come up with the cash, they could buy Mr Seiga's freedom with drugs. But senior police were anxious last night to damp down speculation that the kidnap was part of a Merseyside drugs war.

Mr Seiga's ordeal began when he was abducted by armed men when he went to buy a newspaper on Friday morning. His 22-year-old daughter Britt was expecting to go shopping with him later that day and the family grew alarmed at his absence.

Mr Seiga later arrived at his brother's home by taxi. He was taken to hospital for treatment to scalds to his arms, buttocks and thighs. His face was cut and bruised, and his wrists were injured where they had been tightly bound.

Iraq backed down after British tip

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WITH a new confrontation looming over Iraq's refusal to turn over documents to United Nations weapons inspectors, it emerged yesterday that President Saddam Hussein backed down last time after a warning from Britain of devastating military strikes.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's UN Ambassador, delivered the ultimatum in a private meeting with Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's UN representative, on November 12. The disclosure should put to rest allegations that France opted out of Saddam to the impending US airstrikes, allowing him to reverse course on November 14.

Mohammed Saeed Sahaf, Iraq's Foreign Minister, again rejected a UN Special Commission (Unscoc) request yesterday for records about its weapons of mass destruction.

Baghdad gamble, page 13

Defence Ministry staff face drug test demand

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

CIVIL servants at the Defence Ministry are likely to become the first Whitehall officials to face compulsory drug tests. The move, which is still under negotiation with the unions, would affect all MoD civil servants involved in "safety-critical areas" and would be imposed under a zero-tolerance regime. Anyone testing positive would face dismissal.

The recommendation to bring civil servants into line with the Services, which already have compulsory drug tests, was made by the ministry's career management department to Kevin Tebbitt, the Permanent Under-Secretary.

The Army began random drug tests in January 1995, followed by the Royal Navy in April last year and the RAF from November 1 this year.

Although there is no evidence of a drugs problem among MoD civil servants, it was considered appropriate that officials who worked closely with the military should face the same tests as their uniformed colleagues.

There are 76,000 civil servants in the various defence establishments, including the Whitehall headquarters, but the proposal is that those who work with the military in areas such as weapons programmes and research should be subject to the same testing.

Although some companies are introducing drug tests for employees, Whitehall civil servants have remained immune and it is a highly sensitive issue. Civil Service trade unions have been studying the proposal since last month.

If the idea is approved, civil servants would be selected at random from a computer list of names and ordered to give urine samples.



Primary schools to bring back history

BY JOHN O'LEARY

COMPULSORY lessons in history, geography and the arts will reappear in junior schools when the national curriculum is revised in 2000.

At the moment the teaching of all but the core subjects - English, mathematics, science and information technology - is discretionary while teachers implement the Government's literacy and numeracy strategies. But critics have claimed that children are being denied the broad education guaranteed by the original curriculum - many are taught no history or geography at primary school.

History has become the focus of particular dissatisfaction because primary school lessons give many children their only secure grounding in their heritage. Secondary courses often concentrate on the 20th century and European history.

Recommendations for the revised curriculum, which will be considered by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority next month, lay down what children should learn in history, geography, music and art.

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Bar says US-style public defenders will be a 'calamity'

Frances Gibb reports on the controversy over Lord Irvine's new courts shake-up

THE Government is facing a headlong clash with the legal profession over plans which could lead to an American-style public defender system for criminal defence work.

allow Crown prosecutors to conduct Crown Court cases. A Bar spokesman said: "This would be an extreme calamity. We have no problem with contracts and with setting of standards - that can be made to work. But as far as any move towards a public defender system is concerned, we would fight it tooth and claw."

with specialist, high-standard, lawyers. He said: "Prosecution work is already put out to preferred sets of chambers. We see no reason why criminal defence work should not also go to the best people in the field."

legal aid scheme, created in 1949, will be dismantled in its present form and be replaced by a community legal service run by lawyers and advice workers on contracts.

The White Paper, to be unveiled in the Queen's Speech, will also provide for the scrapping of remaining restrictive practices in the law and in particular removal of the Bars near-monopoly in the higher courts.

Government into heading confrontation with the Bar. But it is expected that in a move to deflect criticism from the judiciary, the final say on any changes to the legal profession and advocacy rights would have to be approved by Parliament.

Ashdown warns rivals against challenge

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN issued a sharp rebuke last night to any colleagues who may want to oust him from the party leadership, insisting that he was in no hurry to step down.

Several Liberal Democrat MPs were further incensed when they heard that Mr Ashdown had extended the co-operation pact with the Labour party. Yesterday Simon Hughes, one of Mr Ashdown's fiercest critics on the co-operation deal, called on the Government to bring back its European Election Bill as soon as possible.

Ahern predicts united Ireland in his lifetime

Taoiseach's remarks in interview infuriate Unionists at a delicate moment, reports Martin Fletcher

BERTIE AHERN, the Irish Taoiseach, last night predicted a constitutional referendum within 15 to 20 years, leading to a united Ireland within his lifetime.

Jeffrey Donaldson, an Ulster Unionist Party MP who opposes the Good Friday agreement, said Mr Ahern's comments showed the Irish Government "didn't regard the agreement as a settlement but only as an interim agreement towards their objective of a united Ireland."

united Ireland... I presume he thinks unionists are not prepared to fight their corner. But he has yet to see the full force of the will of the Unionist community.



Ahern: infuriated Unionists with remark



Linfield's Tony Gorman, No 8, and Cliftonville goal-scorer Tim McCann embrace after the 1-1 draw

Footballers kick off for peace

THE score was 1-1, but this was a game where the whole of Northern Ireland was the victor (Martin Fletcher writes).

For the first time since the onset of the Troubles, the police allowed Linfield, a South Belfast club with a big working-class Protestant following, to play an away game against predominantly Catholic Cliftonville in the heart of North Belfast's "killing fields" this weekend, and the occasion passed off almost without inci-

dent. Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association, hailed the match as "another sign that Northern Ireland's sectarian wounds are healing."

where fully a fifth of the 3,300 killings of the Troubles took place. Linfield last played there in the 1970 Irish Cup final. It won 2-1, but there was rioting after the game.

History lessons

Continued from page 1 between the ages of eight and eleven. But only the core subjects are prescribed in detail for younger children.

and most alert. History, if it is done at all, is left to the end of the afternoon and accorded little importance.

Ministers are aiming to publish their proposals for the new curriculum in the spring, allowing time for consultation over the summer. Schools would then receive details of the new orders by the end of September 2000.

Hague calls on Blair to sack Robinson

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday called on Tony Blair to sack Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, after the Tories published fresh allegations about his business affairs.

never commented on individuals or companies who may or may not be under investigation.

Straw takes to the streets

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT



Straw: took to soap box for hour-long session

JACK STRAW has taken a stand for 'soap box' politics, in the era of the television soundbite, the Home Secretary resolutely clings to an earlier style of political campaigning.

bench outside Marks & Spencer. Mr Straw interlaces a three-minute address on Labour in government by pointing to members of the public who have gathered to listen to their MP.

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Barney's charm is just a Net loss

Dominic Kennedy on how parents take revenge on children's favourite



Barney is snapped up at a London store yesterday: he is hard to damage

BARNEY the dinosaur, whose first British stage tour is attracting huge audiences of children, is the target of an Internet grudge campaign from parents infuriated by his saccharine antics.

The purple monster is the first children's craze of the e-mail age, so office workers rushing to their computer screens to vent their frustrations against the toddlers' favourite.

Barney, a cuddly *Tyrannosaurus rex* created in 1988 by a former Dallas schoolteacher Sheryl Leach, has become a marketing legend, inspiring endless spin-off products. In the United Kingdom, 20,000 children have joined his fan club in a year, he has sold 1.5 million videos, and became the best-selling soft toy in 1995 and 1996.

His programme *Barney & Friends*, a collection of songs, dances and insipid adventures featuring American children with fixed smiles, attracts six million viewers to its weekend slot on GMTV.

The mood is captured by the Barney song: "I love you, you love me, we're best friends as friends should be, with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me too?"

The hot ticket in nursery schools is Barney's Big Surprise, the theatre show which is touring Britain from Aberdeen to Wembley. This Christmas, the toy every parent dreads being asked to buy is a Microsoft Interactive Barney, which talks, sings and moves, but costs £99.99. It can be triggered with signals from a video or computer, if parents splash out on the right booster packs at £49.99 each.

Fittingly, computers are being used to plot against Barney. There are new groups such as *alt.barney.dinosaur*, *die.die.die* and websites including *The Jihad to Destroy Barney on the Worldwide Web*, *Death to the Magenta Menace* and *Barney Doom*.

The *Barney Cookbook* website compiles recipes sent by e-mail from contributors throughout the Barney-affected world, which so far consists of 80 countries from Malaysia to Chile. For "Barney Flam-



This means war: one of the grudge websites

be", the list of ingredients reads "I live barney, rum, a match".

The *Into The Purple Abyss* website has pastiches of celebrated stories, all given a Barney theme. They include *The red-Files*, *Day of the Barney* and a James Bond parody *Never Say I Love You Ever Again*. In each fantasy, Barney meets a different grisly end.

The least tasteful is *The Barney Fun Page*, an interactive game in which Barney is slowly obliterated using a choice of weapons activated by a computer keyboard.

The anti-Barney websites are remarkably popular. The *Barney Offline Page* has attracted 2,833,966 visitors. The *Top 38 Ways to Kill Barney the Dinosaur* is read by 400 people a day. "Donate his body to science — early" is one of the author's less graphic suggestions.

Copycat anti-Barney violence has spilled into real life. When Barney came to open a pharmacy in Massachusetts, a student tackled the dinosaur to the ground and tried to punch him back to the Stone Age.

The anti-Barney campaign has produced a backlash from families who appreciate his gentle fables advocating traditional values. The Pro-Barney WebRing, which describes itself as "a circle of love" was created when a mother and daughter surfed the Net for Barney.

"We were disappointed only to find numerous websites totally unsuitable for the eyes of children who have grown to love Barney," the mother has written.

Most of the 74 pages are websites about individual children, with pictures of their family, pets and favourite television characters.

Any attempts to destroy the real Barney toys are likely to meet with disappointment for adults. Microsoft claims they were "tumbled in a dryer for 12 hours, dropped from 6ft in 12 different positions, pulled by his appendages with up to 50 pounds of force and squeezed 25,000 times on his hands and feet". Sounds like they expected more hostility than a tantrum from a tot.

Comedy duo lead seasonal line-up

By LISA THOMLINSON

THE comedy duo Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders are teaming up for the first time in three years to top the bill of BBC Christmas Day comedy specials. Their sketches, on BBC1, will include their own interpretation of behind-the-scenes moments in the making of the Hollywood movie *Titanic*. Meanwhile, *Rev the Runt*, a story about four dogs from the makers of *Wallace & Gromit*, will be one of the main attractions on BBC2.

Other more predictable festive offerings include *Men Behaving Badly*, who enjoy a family Christmas on BBC1, and the *EastEnders* Christmas special on BBC2, which shows the arrival of the Butcher's baby. Other programmes on BBC2 include *Fast Show* stars Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson in a new comedy romance called *Ted and Ralph*. There will also be seasonal specials of *Birds Of A Feather*, *They Think It's All Over*, *Harry Enfield & Chums*, *Big Break*, *Noel Edmonds Christmas Presents* and *Jim Davidson's Generation Game*. In addition, BBC1 will be screening *In Love With Elizabeth* — a glimpse of the early life of the Queen Mother.

Other highlights on BBC2 include *Bang, Bang It's Reeves And Mortimer*, and the animated film *First Snow of Winter* features the voice of the late Father Ted star Dermot Morgan.



French and Saunders: taking on the *Titanic*

Children snub Father Christmas

Diana Blamires on the sad demise of the department store Santa

FATHER CHRISTMAS will be disappearing from half of his usual haunts this year because he is being ignored by the nation's children.

This year Santa will visit only one in ten shops compared with more than double that last year, according to a study by Deloitte and Touche.

Only one in 20 people expected to be attracted to a store this year by the prospect of meeting Santa. The report says: "Father Christmas's popularity has continued to decline."

Department stores which will do without a grotto this year include D H Evans in Oxford Street and House of Fraser in Carlisle, Cumbria.

Despite the reduction in the number of Santas appearing in shops there is a shortage of Father Christmases who fulfill the job requirements. James

Lovell, a partner of entertainment agency, The Ministry of Fun, which has 470 engagements for Santa in the run-up to Christmas, said: "Father Christmas lookalikes need to be over 40 and round. We have been getting too many young, thin men, and children would see through that."

Declining interest in Father Christmas has accounted for a disappointing response to the country's first training course for Santas. When Weston-super-Mare College advertised for the course only two people came forward. Kath Panes, the head of adult education, said: "Father Christmas seems less popular these days. It

could be because children are used to seeing so many Santas in red costumes and white beards that the novelty has worn off."

Harrods approached the college in search of the perfect Santa after hearing about the course but neither of the participants were available.

Louis have forced Santa Claus to cut out a housing estate in Leicestershire from his travels this Christmas. For the last two years, Loughborough Round Table's Santa has been shot at and pelted with stones while touring the Shelthorpe area of the city.

Last December an airgun pellet narrowly missed him as he was being pulled on his sleigh through Manor Drive.

Craig Joseph, a spokesman for the Round Table, said: "Due to the unfortunate incidents over the last two years, we have decided that this year the route for the Santa run will bypass the Shelthorpe area."

"It is a shame because there were many people there who enjoyed our visit."

"But there are a minority of people who seem to think that shooting and throwing stones at Santa is more fun and they have spoiled the event for everyone else."

Last year the festive tour raised £3,995.18 — the highest figure so far — which has been distributed to numerous charities. The Loughborough Round Table's Santa Run, with its new route, will start on December 8.

And Fairy Liquid said: 'Let there be light this Christmas'

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

WHEN Chris Evans switches on the Christmas lights in Newcastle tomorrow, he could be forgiven for thinking he is launching a new improved brand of washing-up liquid.

For entwined among the glittering illuminations will be giant advertising logos promoting the Fairy Liquid baby.

Procter & Gamble, which owns Fairy Liquid, is one of a growing number of companies taking advantage of the commercialisation of Christmas to sponsor Christmas lights.

They are sharing the £70,000 cost of the display with Newcastle City Council in return for advertising their "Bizzie" babies among the sparkling Christmas trees, Santa Claus and snowflakes.

Newcastle is one of a growing number of councils signing lucrative sponsorship deals for their Christmas displays as the millennium approaches.

David Roberts, managing director of Plain Air, which has organised many of the deals, said: "Local authorities are strapped for cash. If they aren't strapped they would need sponsorship. We help them to raise sufficient funds

to have good schemes and attract shoppers into the city centres."

The commercialisation of Christmas lights began during the 1980s, when the Regent Street Association allowed Walt Disney to sponsor its illuminations.

Enid Blyton, Terence Conran, Cameron McIntosh and Yves St Laurent have all been responsible for the Regent Street lights but it is this year's lights, sponsored by Britvic's Tango drink and switched on

last Tuesday by the pop group All Saints, which have received most criticism. The street, which was designed by John Nash, is decorated with 60,000 bright orange bulbs with banners at each end reading: "The season to be Tango."

Planners at Westminster City Council claimed that they had no choice but to approve the scheme because the association applied so late. If they had demanded a redesign, the lights would have missed the

November 17 switch-on date. Annie Walker, the association's executive officer, said: "In this day and age everything is commercial and therefore sponsorship makes the world go around."

Oxford Street's illuminations were first sponsored in 1996 by Sony Playstation, and the following year by Fox Kids, the satellite channel.

This year Zoe Ball, the Radio 1 DJ and TV presenter, switched on a £120,000 display of festive banners, of which Birds Eye met half the cost. But it is the first time cities outside London have arranged sponsorship for their Christmas illuminations.

The Manchester lights were switched on last Sunday by Mick Hucknall, the singer. Renault has invested £300,000 in the city's Christmas celebrations in return for two giant logos at the end of Deansgate.

On the same day Rick Parfitt, of Status Quo, was switching on the lights in Glasgow and launching the Shine on Glasgow festival. Coca-Cola has invested £320,000 in the festivities and the city is adorned with giant posters displaying the Sundblom Santa and his bottle of Coca-Cola.



All Saints switching on the Christmas lights in Regent Street

Lawrence report faces challenge

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Stephen Lawrence inquiry faces a legal challenge over whether police officers criticised in the report should be given advance copies of the comments and be allowed to respond.

The Police Federation, representing junior ranks up to chief inspector, is writing this week to Sir William Macpherson, the former High Court judge leading the inquiry, and his officials to ask them to follow the rules of other public inquiries. These allow witnesses to be sent so-called "Salmon Letters" — named after a former senior judge — detailing

comments about them. The process was followed in the Scott inquiry and yesterday Glen Smyth, chairman of the London branch of the federation, said his members should have the same right. If Sir William refuses, the federation will take legal advice.

The police believe that the inquiry will refuse and will argue that, unlike witnesses in the Scott inquiry, the police officers were legally represented and had the opportunity to put their point of view. The federation challenge could be supported by representatives of senior ranks.

Hours limit not for spin doctors

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR's most senior civil servants and Government spin doctors are going to have to work a little bit harder. Because they are permanently on call, and will have to opt out of time-keeping rules imposing a 48-hour working week, they will have to do extra paperwork and keep their own timesheets.

Even Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the home civil service, is facing the prospect of clocking on and signing himself off so that he can record the exact number of hours he works each day. Most of the coun-

try's 468,000 civil servants are spared long hours and would rarely work a 48-hour week, key staff in Whitehall including permanent secretaries, Government spin doctors and the officials who work in the private offices of Ministers are being asked to sign agreements that "the 48-hour limit on average weekly working time shall not apply in my case".

Civil service unions are generally pleased that the Government has adopted the working time limits and believe it is a step towards ending the long hours culture.

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Watchdog may end women's shared hope

A FORM of egg donation that has led to the birth of 150 babies in Britain may be outlawed this week by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

At its meeting on Thursday the HFEA could agree to ban "egg-sharing" — the process by which women undergoing in vitro fertilisation treatments can donate half their own eggs to help others in return for free treatment.

The HFEA regards the practice as akin to paying for eggs, which it has banned. It also said that egg-sharing could cause distress to women who failed to become pregnant then found that the women to whom half their eggs had been donated had been successful.

But leading specialists have strongly criticised the proposed change, which they say will reduce egg supply and cause risks to other women who want to donate eggs. The HFEA's critics include Professor Robert Edwards of the University of Cambridge, whose work led to the birth of the first test-tube baby 20 years ago, and the leading obstetrician Professor Ian Cooke of Jessop Hospital for Women in Sheffield, who was a founder member of the HFEA.

They warn that the only alternative to egg-sharing is relying on women coming forward voluntarily to donate

Protest over the test-tube patients who donate eggs, reports Aileen Ballantyne

eggs. Since that involves exposing them to fertility drugs to stimulate ovulation — a process that may carry risks, such as cancer — without any benefit, they believe that it cannot be justified.

Their argument was backed yesterday by Michelle Sneade, 35, who produces television commercials. She received eggs under the scheme and became pregnant with twins Lauren and Isaac, now eight months old. She needed the eggs because, after successful treatment for cancer when she was 24, Mrs Sneade could no longer produce her own eggs.

"This was the only way I could get pregnant and we did have our own baby," she said. "We see the twins as ours every possible way. For the donor — who could not afford the cost of IVF without the egg sharing scheme — it was also her only chance of a baby."

Like other recipients, Mrs Sneade will never know if the

woman who donated six of the twelve eggs she produced ever became pregnant. She called her son Isaac from the biblical story of the birth of Isaac to the childless Sarah and Abraham.

In its consultation paper on the issue, the HFEA describes egg-sharing as "paid" egg donation and a spokesman said there were concerns that any sort of "financial inducement" might cause a woman to donate eggs they would not otherwise have given.

Dr Karan Ahuja, scientific director of the Crownell Hospital in London, has pioneered egg-sharing in the UK. He has found that for many women who donate half their eggs, the chance of having a test-tube baby is increased, because they are able to afford more cycles of treatment.

"Among those who have donated in exchange for a free treatment cycle are women teachers, bank managers, barristers and university lecturers," said Dr Ahuja. "IVF at about £3,000 a treatment cycle is very expensive and is also very wasteful of eggs."

A research paper by Dr Ahuja, Mr Simons and Professor Edwards, which strongly argues the case for egg-sharing, is to appear on the Internet website of the medical journal *Human Reproduction* this Wednesday on the eve of the crucial HFEA meeting. Profes-



Michelle Sneade gave birth to twins after receiving donated eggs. "This was our only chance," she said

sor Edwards said that he had become increasingly convinced of the value of egg-sharing because it did not involve healthy women taking drugs in order to become unpaid egg donors voluntarily — a practice that is allowed by the HFEA.

A woman undergoing IVF would have to take such drugs in any case in order to have a baby and surplus eggs could be donated with no harm to the donor.

"Egg-sharing is a loving, anonymous donation in just the same way as altruistic egg

donation" he said. "Some would say more so, because it is a gift from one woman who has suffered the pain of infertility to another who has gone through a similar experience."

Egg-sharing is now the only method of egg donation allowed by law in Canada, Denmark and Israel because it ensures that women who do not require treatment themselves are not exposed to the potential risks of IVF.

Instead of that, say the HFEA's critics, the watchdog wishes to introduce a system under which women will be en-

couraged to donate eggs by advertising and publicly campaigns. That will enable advertisers and doctors to make money but deny any benefit to the women who give the eggs.

The HFEA said that egg-sharing could cause distress when donors who failed to become pregnant found that the other women had been successful with their eggs.

In one particular case, an HFEA spokesman said, a desperate woman had been heartbroken at the news: "The woman did not get pregnant but the other woman did and the

donor became very upset. Most clinics do not tell women but in this case it was blurted out and she found out by accident.

"We are aware of other situations where women have shared eggs because they had no other option, and who failed to get pregnant themselves. It can become very distressing."

The spokesman said that clinics had by law to inform women of the risks involved in hormone-induced production of eggs, although no such risks had been proved.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Partygoer killed by gunman

A partygoer was shot dead by a man who chased him along a busy street in Chapeltown, Leeds. West Yorkshire Police said that the victim, who was aged 23, had travelled from Manchester with his girlfriend for the party.

He had been seen talking to his killer in the street moments before being shot three times in the early hours yesterday. The gunman fled the area and police have been unable to find the weapon but said it appeared that the shots were fired from a pistol. The motive for the killing was unclear.

Fall boy dies

A five-year-old boy who suffered head injuries in a fall at a special needs school in Sheffield on Thursday has died after his parents allowed hospital staff to turn off his life-support system. Police have not released the boy's name.

Peer questioned

Police have interviewed a 68-year-old member of the House of Lords over an allegation that he exposed himself to a barmaid. The incident was said to have taken place in the Marquis of Granby pub in Westminster.

Murder arrest

A 15-year-old boy has been arrested after a 17-year-old youth was stabbed to death in a street in Batchley, Worcestershire, on Saturday. West Mercia Police said that they had also questioned several other children over the attack.

Heart man well

The man who flew to London for a heart and lung transplant on an Irish government jet has left intensive care. The jet was diverted when donor organs became available for Dermot Fenton, who suffers from cystic fibrosis.

Masterly wine

Cambridge University is to launch its own range of twelve wines under the name of Masters. Bottles will have the university's coat of arms on the label. Prices will range from £4.99 for a bergerac to £12 for a white burgundy.

Battle veteran seeks his war pension after 80 years

By PETER FOSTER



Then: the young Samuel Short in the Great War

A VETERAN of the Great War is applying for a war pension 80 years after he was caught up in a mustard gas attack while serving on the Western Front. Samuel Short, who celebrates his 100th birthday next May, was paid 12 shillings a week after he was invalided out of the Army but the payments were cut to five shillings in 1920 and were stopped by 1921.

Since then Mr Short has claimed nothing from the State for his wounds, despite having his lower left lung removed after he contracted cancer in 1961 and being left with breathing diffi-

culties which saw him spend nine days in hospital last Christmas. But on the advice of British Legion, Mr Short, who lives alone and independently in his bungalow in Ware, Hertfordshire, has applied for a pension which could pay him an estimated £100 a week.

"I told them I thought too much time had elapsed but they said I was eligible," he said. "I never thought to claim before. We didn't back then. We didn't have things like counselling, we just came back and got on with life."

The widower, a retired surveyor, is one of thousands of ex-servicemen who the British Legion believes are eligible for a pension but are not claim-

ing their entitlement. Tom House, its head of pensions, said the Legion was actively trying to encourage servicemen and their widows to come forward if they believe they have a claim. More than 300,000 servicemen currently claim war pensions at a cost of almost £1.3 billion a year but only 71 are Great War veterans.

Mr Short served with the 2/10th London Regiment (The Hackney Rifles) and later the Post Office Rifles. Although he admits that he often cannot remember what he had for lunch yesterday, August 24, 1918 remains crystal clear in his mind. "It was a quiet day during a lull in the fighting and he

was manning a trench near Arras. "We had been in the trenches for about five days and I remember we ran out of cigarettes. But on that particular day, rations came up with some cigs and then the Germans started shelling us. It was about 3.00pm. It carried on until midnight but it was breezy and the gas seemed to be clearing away nicely."

"So we took off our masks for a smoke when the Hun sent over a high explosive shell which burst right on the parapet of our trench, leaving us partially buried. He followed up with gas shells which caught us as we picked ourselves up."



Now: the veteran aged 99 is seeking pension

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Partygoer killed by gunman

Partygoer was shot dead by a man who chased him along a busy street in Chippingwood, West Yorkshire. Police said that the victim, who was 22, had travelled from Manchester with his friend...

Fall boy dies

A five-year-old boy who fell from a school in the north of England died of his injuries on Monday. The boy had been playing in the school playground when he fell from a tree...

Peer questioned

A peer was questioned over alleged involvement in a case involving a woman who had been in a relationship with a man who was later found to be a serial killer...

Murder arrested

A man was arrested on suspicion of murdering a woman in a park in the north of England. The woman was found dead in a park in the north of England...

Heart man

A man who had a heart attack was rescued by a dog in a park in the north of England. The man was found lying on the ground in a park in the north of England...

Row as theatre saviour wants name in lights

THE future of the Royal Court theatre could be secured with a £3 million donation if it agrees to a controversial condition to incorporate the name of its benefactor into the title.

Royal Court playwrights are unhappy about strings attached to £3m donation, says Dalya Albergé

The council of the Royal Court — whose members include the actress Joan Plowright and the director of BBC television Alan Yentob — has already accepted the deal with one of its main sponsors, the Jerwood Foundation, though no formal agreement has been signed.

Mr Evans stressed that he is not as active a council member as he would like to be and praised Mr Dalry and his successor Ian Rickson, as well as the chairman, the writer John Mortimer.

The theatre's problems centre on £3 million which it desperately needs to raise by May to ensure its survival — the final amount of the £25.83 million redevelopment of its Sloane Square site.

don. He made it clear that he did not mind where the money came from as long as it did not affect artistic freedom.

"If K-Mart wants to give us a load of money", he said, "faced with either going into liquidation or taking the cash, it was not inconceivable that the theatre would acknowledge K-Mart in its name."

However, he said the Royal Court relies on its playwrights and "any decision about its future needs to take into consideration their needs". He said it would be "foolhardy" for the Royal Court to create a situation that caused such concern.

Mr Mortimer said: "Negotiations are going forward. We will announce a resolution when it's concluded."

Jerwood's chairman, Alan Grieve, said: "Under no circumstances is it our business to interfere with their artistic judgements."



Pulling power: competitors take part in the 8th British Indoor Rowing Championships at Reading yesterday. More than a thousand people took part and more than 20 British records were broken. Sport, page 27

New plan to call time on rowdy pubs

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

ROWDY pubs could have their opening hours slashed until their customers behave themselves under plans to reform licensing laws.

The changes would mean that licences would be issued by local authorities, who could set special conditions about trouble at the pub. At the moment, police say, magistrates do not set conditions but either allow or refuse a licence.

Under the proposal, instead of the pubs opening until 11pm or even later on special occasions the publicans could be told to close at 9pm. Troublemakers would drift away, the pub's business would fall and the publicans forced to reform.

The plan is part of a raft of reforms which will be discussed today at a national conference of police and drink industry executives in York. At the centre of the debate will be the proposals launched this summer by a Cabinet Office task force on deregulation.



John Jerwood: set up the foundation

'Admit women from abroad to MCC'

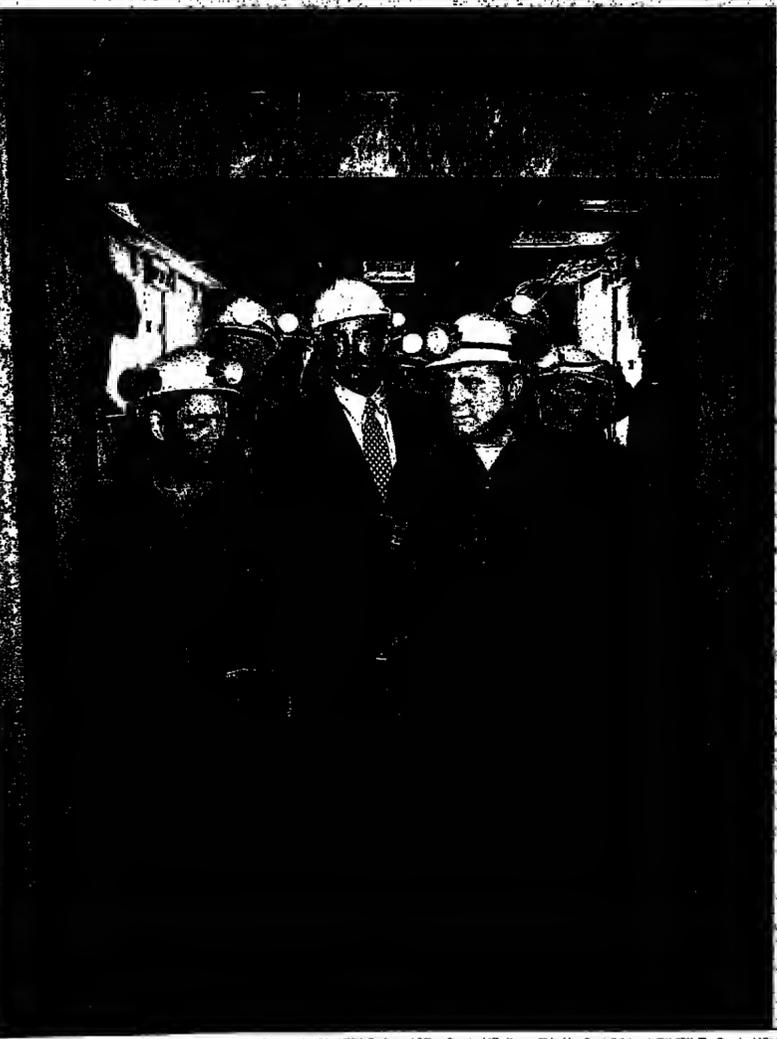
WOMEN from abroad should be considered for the first-coveted places for women at the MCC, Sir Tim Rice said yesterday (Ivo Tennant writes).

The writer and lyricist, who is on the MCC's general committee and championed the admission of women to the club, is heading a group looking at how the first women members should be welcomed at the Pavilion at Lords. Critics fear that menus for the diet-conscious will replace steak and kidney pie.

lights" in mind. "But I do want to see women take their place at MCC without feeling threatened or unwanted. Obviously we have to ensure there are such basic amenities as toilets — or do we insist they wait until they get home?" However, he added, "I see our priority as deciding who to elect as our first women members."

The MCC lets men such as former Test players "jump the queue" in recognition of their services to cricket. Sir Tim says women who have served the game with distinction abroad should be considered.

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Chinese now the nation's top earners

THE Chinese in Britain have overtaken whites and African Asians in the earnings and employment league.

Research to be published today shows that Chinese men have the highest average earnings and the lowest unemployment rate of any ethnic group, including whites.

The study by the Institute for Social and Economic Research at Essex University also discloses enormous disparities between different minority groups. While most Chinese experience relative prosperity, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are by far the poorest groups in the country.

The study shows that the average earnings of Chinese men are £268 a week, compared with £331 for whites, £317 for Indians, £311 for Afro-Caribbeans and £220 for Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

Only 9 per cent of Chinese men are unemployed, against

Research shows Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are lowest paid, Alexandra Frean reports

15 per cent of whites, 17 per cent of Indians, 31 per cent of Afro-Caribbeans and 39 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

When family income is taken into account, the Indian population also overtakes whites but still comes second to the Chinese. The figures are £314 for Chinese families, £305 for Indians, £298 for whites, £253 for Afro-Caribbeans and £174 for Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. Richard Berthoud,

author of the research — the first in-depth analysis of income data on 2,500 ethnic minority households in the Government's Family Resources Survey — said that the study dispelled the myth that all ethnic minority groups were disadvantaged or that they could meaningfully be lumped together for social and economic analyses.

"By no means all minority groups experience low incomes. On some measures, Chinese and Indians are in a very similar position to the white population," he said.

He added that there was no single explanation for the relative prosperity of the Chinese. "There is a high level of self-employment among the Chinese. They tend to be in quite prosperous kinds of businesses, such as restaurants. If Pakistanis or Bangladeshis are self-employed, it tends to be as taxi-drivers, or jobs that are



Thomas and Sim Chan at home in East London with their children Jessica, 9, and Christopher, 15

not high earning," he said. The reasons for the migration to Britain of different ethnic groups were also significant. Mr Berthoud said. Chinese and African Asians who came to Britain in the 1970s and 80s tended to arrive with better educational backgrounds and standards of English than people from Pakistan and Bangla-

desh, who were often fleeing poverty and hunger. The concentration of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in Yorkshire and Lancashire, where they originally found jobs in the textile trade, worked against them when that industry collapsed.

Cultural differences also play a part. Mr Berthoud ad-

ded. The majority of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in Britain were Muslims. Their family incomes tended to be low because Islam is associated with low levels of employment among women and large family sizes.

With Chinese and Indian populations, the women are often employed in the fami-

ly business. There are between 160,000 and 180,000 Chinese in Britain. Although around 80,000 are in London, they are more evenly dispersed around the country than other groups. The 9,000 Chinese restaurants outnumber Indian restaurants and tend to be located where they do not compete too much with each other.

'Hard work and family values'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

THOMAS CHAN, a senior manager with an NHS Trust, says that the prosperity of the Chinese in Britain is due in large part to "sheer hard work".

Deeply engrained cultural values, which place huge emphasis on parents ensuring their children have a good education so they can in turn support them in old age, are also responsible, he said.

"The relative prosperity of many Chinese people, masks the sacrifices they have made to achieve it. If they own a Chinese restaurant, they will work extremely hard, at least six days a week and the whole family will be asked to help out," he said.

He added that many Chinese in Britain came from rural parts of Hong Kong after the agricultural sector there collapsed in the 1960s. Mr Chan, who came to Britain from Hong Kong 20 years ago, was a councillor in Redbridge, East London, and is a member of Jack Straw's race relations panel. He has two children.

High rollers with a high social profile

Wing Yip, 60, who made his estimated £25million fortune in the cash and carry business. He worked as a waiter after arriving in the UK in 1955, opening his own restaurant in Ipswich and building up the W Wing Yip & Brothers empire. He was the first Hong Kong Chinese immigrant to make the Sunday Times "rich list" of the country's wealthiest 1,000 people.

Patti Wong, a director of leading auction house Sotheby's, and her merchant banker husband Andy Wong. Both are children of Hong Kong parents, but they have their main residence in Britain. Patti was educated at an English boarding school and the LSE.

Dickson Poon, hailed as the saviour of Harvey Nichols after buying the ailing Knightsbridge department store for £50m in 1991 and transforming it into a by-word for glamour. Another major investment in London was the fashionable Oxo Tower.

David Tang, the proprietor of the China Clubs in Beijing and Hong Kong, who divides his time between the two Far Eastern cities and London. He is a familiar face on the social scene.

Li Ka-shing, who controls Hutchison, the owners of Felixstowe port and the Orange mobile phone network. Li has previously made major donations to the Conservative Party.



Business emperors: Li Ka-shing and David Tang

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1 November 1998, Sunday Telegraph.

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Brown warns of battle to reclaim beef markets

BY JILL SHERMAN AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE European Union ban on British beef exports is expected to be lifted in Brussels today, allowing deboned beef to be sold abroad from February.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, has warned, however, that it could take a long time for British farmers to resume the level of trade that they had before the ban was imposed in early 1996.

The council of agriculture ministers is today expected to agree to the lifting of the export ban, despite opposition from Germany and possibly France. Britain needs only a simple majority to win its case and, following a round of intense negotiations, Mr Brown is confident that he has enough allies.

The EU move would, initially, apply only to deboned beef but Mr Brown indicated that

THE CONDITIONS

The main conditions for the export scheme are:

- only boned beef and beef products exported;
- only animals born after August 1, 1996;
- cows must be between 6 and 30 months old at slaughter;
- animals identifiable throughout lives;
- the mother must have lived BSE-free for at least six months after birth of export animal.

he would shortly be able to lift Britain's own ban on beef on the bone.

He admitted he would have to wait for a report from the scientific committee, but Whitehall officials said that if that gave the all clear, the ban

could be lifted by February or March. Mr Brown said that there was already a beef surplus in Europe and it would take some time before consumer confidence returned. Both factors could cause a problem in getting the British market back.

Speaking on BBC's *On The Record*, Mr Brown said that if agreement was reached he would work very hard to get the export scheme running by early spring.

"We will then have to have a final inspection by the Commission to make sure we have done what we said we would do, and then we should be exporting de-boned beef from Britain worldwide again."

Exports could be ready to recommence by February or March, he indicated. He warned, though: "We have been out of the market for three years now and other people have come and taken those



Cornish cattle feeding contentedly yesterday. An expected EU decision today may mean British beef could soon be on sale in Europe again

markets over. I think it's going to be a long haul but if we don't make a start we will never get there."

A further condition for easing the ban is that Britain enters into yet another cattle cull — this time of some 12,000 offspring of cows that have died of BSE, or 'mad cow' disease.

Taking stock of the saga, EU experts see the BSE crisis and John Major's ill-fated "beef war" as a turning point for the supervision of the food

by the EU. Indignation on the Continent over what was seen as lax British conduct also helped speed a drift away from meat-eating.

Today's expected decision is the result both of meeting the EU's scientific criteria and the improved relations with the EU forged by Tony Blair's government. Mr Brown and Jack Cunningham, his predecessor, have worked assiduously to mend fences with the other EU farm ministers.

Fear still follows the herd

THE ban on Northern Ireland beef was lifted on June 1 but in the six months since the province's farmers have noticed hardly any difference (writes Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent).

Before the ban was imposed in March 1996, 52 per cent of Northern Ireland's beef was sold to 48 countries

outside the United Kingdom. The figure today is about one per cent or 25 tons a week. Will Taylor, the Ulster Farmers' Union president, blamed the Continent's continuing perception that there was something wrong with British beef and the difficulty of regaining lost markets.

problems were exacerbated

by new European regulations saying all meats must be clearly labelled with their country of origin, the strong pound and the devaluation of several currencies in preparation for monetary union.

The Northern Ireland Office has allocated £2.3 million for promoting the province's beef abroad.

'Punters' will have voice on Lottery panel

BY DANIEL MCGRODY

NATIONAL Lottery players will have a voice on the panel which will decide who runs the lottery after Camelot's contract expires.

Government sources said yesterday that there should be a "punter" on the new five-member Lottery Commission, which will be appointed from a from a shortlist of applicants. A source said: "We want people who play the lottery to look after their own interests in future."

The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, said that he wanted a non-profit operator to run the lottery, and that whoever promised to raise the most money for good causes should win the licence in 2001. Mr Smith said that the Lottery Commission "will speak on behalf of the players" and will regulate Camelot's running of the lottery until its licence runs out. Ministers have been critical of the £80.9 million profit that Camelot made last year, and of the fees paid to its directors.

Mr Smith told GMTV: "I am sure Camelot will want to put in a bid after 2000, but I very much hope they have some strong competition because it's out of a really good tough competition that we will get the best deal for the good causes."

"We have always said that we would like to see, if possible, an efficient, not-for-profit operator, doing it on the basis of cost only and everything else going to the good causes."

"I think the message is that the more bids the better the bids, and the more money for the good causes."

The Virgin tycoon Richard Branson hinted yesterday he was likely to be among the bidders to take over the twice-weekly draw, but a spokesman said: "If someone can run it with all the profits going to the good causes, then he will probably support that, rather than submitting his own bid."

The preference for a non-profit making body may deter some of the businesses behind previous bids.

A Camelot spokeswoman said that she assumed the company would bid to renew its licence. "We have provided billions of pounds for the good causes," she said.

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Winning numbers, page 26

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THE TIME

Arctic is a third than

AlFayed's grant ange

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Arctic ice is now a third thinner than in 1976

GLOBAL warming may have triggered the unprecedented melting of sea ice in the Arctic, which has left the remaining ice up to a third thinner than it was 20 years ago.

Scientists studying sonar readings from British submarines fear that the thaw could lead to huge disruptions of the world's ocean circulations, including the Gulf Stream, which keeps Britain and Western Europe relatively warm.

A failure or a deflection of the Gulf Stream — which keeps Britain's ports free of ice and ensures that winter temperatures are warmer than at similar latitudes in Canada and the former Soviet Union — would have a devastating effect on the climate and the economy.

Dr Peter Wadhams, a reader in polar studies at the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, and Dr Norman Davis, a senior research fellow at the institute, said yesterday that they had compared ice thickness measurements taken from HMS *Trafalgar* in 1976 with those made by submarines from 1976 to 1997.

The earlier readings showed that ice had thinned by 12 to 15 per cent over that 11-year period and Dr Davis said that the latest findings indicated that the ice was becoming more fragile.

"It is looking considerably thinner. We would not be surprised if the final results show a 20 per cent to 30 per cent difference," he said.

Ice thickness was, on average, six metres in the 1970s. The latest findings indicate that it might now be on average up to two metres thinner.

Big melt may have dangerous effect on the world's ocean currents, reports Nick Nuttall

The findings add to a growing weight of evidence that dramatic changes are occurring in the Arctic, which may be due to emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases.

The Arctic is crucial region. The melting and freezing of its sea water drives vast ocean circulations that affect the world's weather and climate in ways that scientists are just beginning to understand. The sea ice also reflects back into space heat from the sun that would otherwise be absorbed.

As a key area of the Greenland Sea freezes in winter, the resulting build-up of salty water sinks to the bottom, carrying with it huge quantities of dissolved carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. A slowing of

this process could accelerate the build-up of carbon dioxide and, as a consequence, speed up global warming.

Researchers in Norway said that satellite pictures had shown that the total area of the Arctic covered by ice had shrunk by 5 per cent over the past 18 years.

Dr Helge Drange, of the Nansen Environmental Remote Sensing Centre in Bergen, said yesterday: "It is an area the size of France, a substantial reduction in sea ice."

Dr Drange also said that the line at which warm Atlantic waters met cold polar waters had moved about 100km north over the past 20 years.

The findings came a week after 169 nations met in Buenos Aires to plan how to cut back emissions from industrial countries by 5.2 per cent by 2010. Countries agreed to exchange between them, after the year 2000, billions of dollars worth of green energy technology in return for credits to offset emissions at home.

Dr Davis said that researchers were now studying submarine readings dating back to 1967 to help assess whether the thinning was part of a natural cycle or a trend caused by global warming.

Dr Wadhams said that they were also keen to match their findings with readings from US submarines, which operate on the other side of the Arctic, overlapping with British ones near the pole.

The US data, which is now beginning to be being declassified, may include readings dating back to 1957 when *Nautilus* made the first sub-polar voyage.



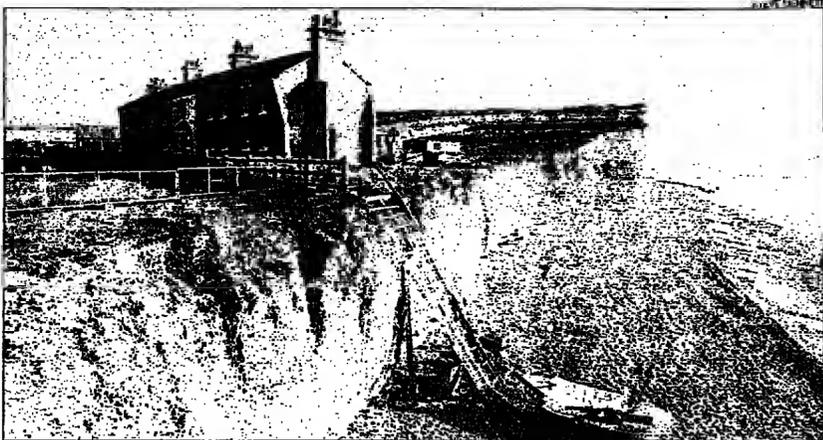
Mind the gap: a poster in a resident's window

Villagers on cliff edge to sue trust

PEOPLE living in a hamlet that is teetering on a cliff edge are to take legal action against the National Trust in an effort to stop their homes falling into the sea (Helen Johnston writes).

Villagers from Birling Gap, East Sussex, which attracts 250,000 visitors a year, believe that the trust, which owns the land, should protect their homes. The trust, which admits that its policy of managed retreat will mean homes falling into the sea, said that it wanted to work with nature.

The cliff has been eroding at a rate of about 3ft a year and campaigners say that a



Birling Gap, near Eastbourne, showing the ravages of erosion today and, below, at the turn of the century

set of boulders at the bottom of the cliff could halt the decline and save the properties for a further 30 years. This plan, called a rock revetment, is the only hope of saving the settlement, which consists of a few cottages, a hotel, public car park, a telephone box and a coastguard station. One cottage has crumbled into the sea and a second has been demolished.

The scheme is opposed by conservationists, who argue that it would upset the natural landscape in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. But the Birling Gap Cliff Protection Association



View of Birling Gap showing the cliff edge and buildings.

says the trust should have already acted and should foot the estimated £300,000 bill for the project. Jeanette Taylor, solicitor for the association, said: "We will be taking action against the National Trust unless they come up with proposals

for the settlement of this issue. We feel it is their duty as the landlord to protect the property and the people who live there. Why purchase this piece of land and then let it fall into the sea?"

Lord Harris of High Cross, the chairman of the association,

said: "The community of Birling Gap must be saved. The trust should agree as a matter of urgency to a revetment being built." He said the trust had a duty of care to protect structures. "We have taken legal advice and we think we have a good case."

Lord Howie of Troon, who rents a coastguard cottage, said the trust's policy was wrong. "If you allow nature to take its course, you destroy the habitation. What you are saying is a group of dwellings is less important than grass." He said that the erosion could have been stopped and the revetment "should have been done years ago".

Al Fayed's £2m forestry grant angers villagers

By FRASER NELSON

MOHAMED Al Fayed may collect a £2.2 million Forestry Commission grant by planting up to 230,000 trees on his Scottish highland estate at Inveroykel, despite protests by crofters who fear the scheme will cripple the local economy.

Locals fear that the trees will soak up so much spring water that the River Oykel will be substantially lowered, driving away salmon and the anglers who prop up the local tourist industry. Steve Mouat, the Community Councillor for the

village of Roschall, Sutherland, said that he would make a formal protest to the Highlands and Islands Regional Council. "We have 12 per cent unemployment and there are 20 jobs depending on the river. If they go, there will be nothing to replace them," he said.

Mr Al Fayed's real estate agent, Johnathon Hensen, said: "This is not about commercial forestry. We are trying to restore Scotland's natural woodlands. If we had any evidence that the scheme will

damage the local economy, it simply will not go ahead."

Mr Al Fayed has proposed to cover 2,300 hectares of barren land with Scots pine and broadleaf trees on barren land. This would necessitate a cull of about 100 deer, which which locals fear would reduce the demand for stalking.

The Forestry Commission said: "We have asked for an independent environmental audit because the proposal is so large, but the grant would only cover part of the costs."



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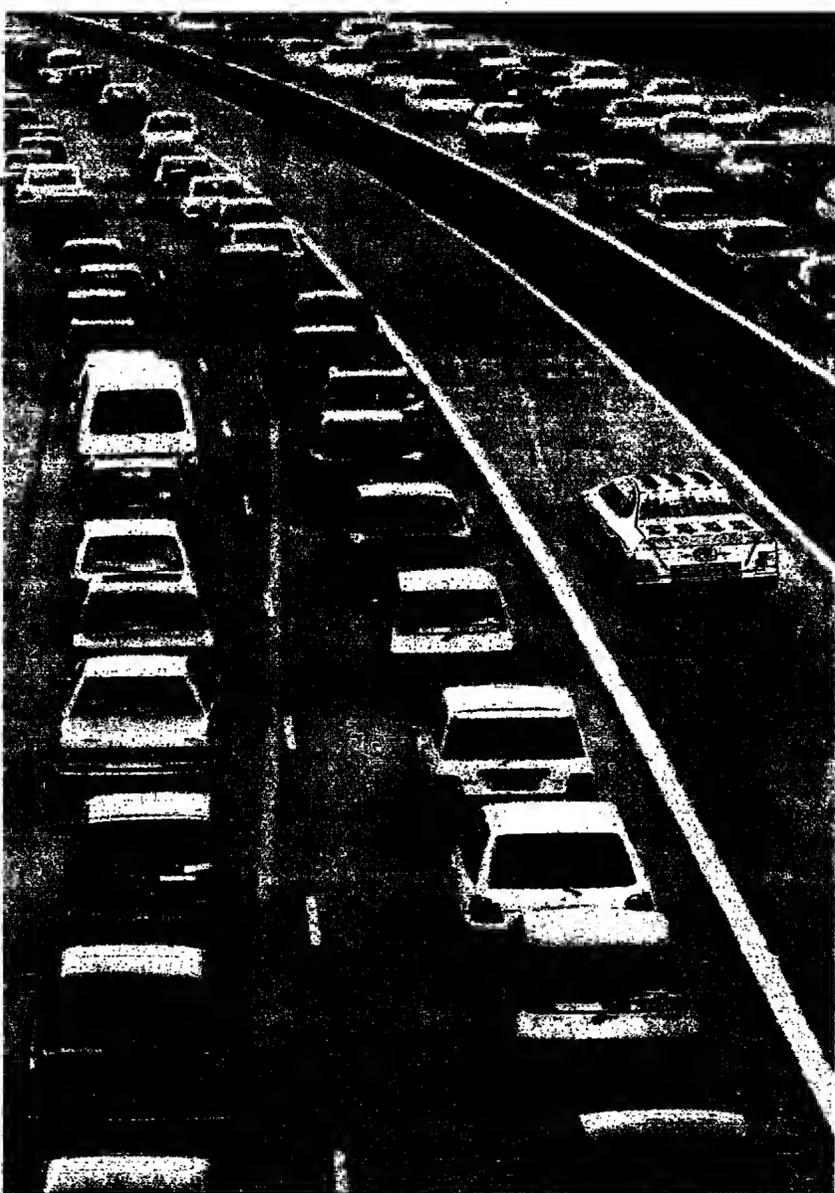
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Six killings later, police make the connection

Audrey Magee reports on family's call for help to solve mystery of missing women in the mountains

A ROADSIDE memorial was erected yesterday to mark the last sighting of a young woman suspected of falling prey to a serial killer roaming the east coast of Ireland.

JoJo Dullard is one of six women to have vanished since 1993. Police are now investigating the possibility that all were raped, murdered and buried in shallow graves in the Wicklow and Dublin mountains.

The women were aged 17 to 26. Some, like Miss Dullard, were hitch-hiking when they vanished while others failed to return from trips to local shops and pubs. One was seven months pregnant.

Police originally dismissed suggestions that a serial killer was at large in spite of apparent similarities between cases. Now officers unconnected with the initial investigations have been appointed to trawl through the details. The new team is being led by Tony Hickey, the assistant commissioner who led the inquiry into the murder of the journalist Veronica Guerin.

They are comparing the six cases with those of three women whose bodies were found in the mountains over the past 20 years. Phyllis Murphy, 23, was found raped, strangled and partially hidden in bushes in the Wicklow mountains in

1980. Eight years later the decomposed body of Antoinette Smith, 27, was found in a boggy, shallow grave in the Dublin mountains. She is thought to have been raped and strangled. Two miles away, in 1992, police uncovered the body of Patricia Doherty, 30, a mother of two who vanished after going Christmas shopping.

Among the missing six, Ms Dullard, 21, vanished in November 1995 while hitchhiking between Dublin and her home in Caltan, Co Kilkenny. She had missed the last bus and called a friend from a telephone box in Moore to explain her delay. A car pulled up and offered a lift. She has not been seen since. Her sister, Mary Phelan, unveiled a memorial outside the telephone box in the hope of sparking the memory of a passer-by. She said: "I thought it would get easier with time but it gets harder because you desperately want to find out what happened."

John McCarrick, a New Yorker whose daughter Annie



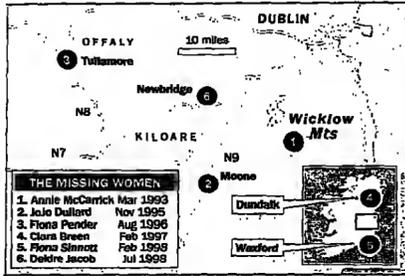
JoJo Dullard: vanished after she accepted a lift

disappeared in 1993, became so frustrated with the police search that he hired a private detective and offered a \$150,000 reward for information. Ms McCarrick, an Anglo-Irish literature student, disappeared during a day-trip to the Wicklow and Dublin mountains. Despite Ireland's largest missing-person's investigation, she was not found. Mr McCarrick said: "I am happy to see the Gardaí reopen the case. It won't bring Annie back but I would like to see justice done and somebody held responsible."

The move to reopen the cases was prompted by the disappearance in July of Deirdre Jacob, 18, a student teacher home from London. She was walking home after visiting her grandmother's shop in Newbridge, Co Kildare. She was seen in the local bank and post office but vanished within 300 yards of her house.

In February, Fiona Sinnott, 19, vanished after a night out with friends in a pub in Wexford. Ciara Breen, 17, from Dundalk, Co Louth, disappeared after slipping out of her bedroom window one night while her mother was asleep.

The sixth missing woman is Fiona Pender, 25, a part-time model from Tullamore, Co Offaly, who was seven months pregnant. The alarm was raised after her mother twice called to her flat in August 1996 but failed to gain access. Maternity units were alerted but failed to yield any trace.



THE MISSING WOMEN

1. Annie McCarrick	Mar 1993
2. JoJo Dullard	Nov 1995
3. Fiona Pender	Aug 1996
4. Ciara Breen	Feb 1997
5. Fiona Sinnott	Feb 1998
6. Deirdre Jacob	Jul 1998



The memorial unveiled yesterday by Miss Dullard's sister Mary, who said: "It gets harder with time." Below, four of the missing women: from left, Annie McCarrick, Fiona Pender, Fiona Sinnott and Deirdre Jacob



Home Office rules out deal with Shayler Snubbed skipper rows on

OFFICIALS at the Home Office and Security Service said yesterday that they would not drop official security charges against David Shayler, the former MI5 officer, in return for his silence.

In Paris at the weekend after a French court rejected a request for his extradition, Mr Shayler said that he was prepared to negotiate a settlement with the British authorities that would allow him to return to Britain.

But in a statement the Home Office said: "We are not currently in discussion with Mr Shayler and criminal charges remain on the file. If he has something to say he should take advice from his solicitor and any ap-

proach should come from his solicitor. The question of a deal on criminal charges does not arise."

Privately officials are adamant that there be no deal, although talks did take place before Mr Shayler was arrested. They are now waiting to see if the French authorities decide to take the court decision to appeal.

Despite the Home Office comments, John Wadhams, Mr Shayler's lawyer and director of the civil liberties group Liberty, said that he was still hopeful

that a deal could be made and that the Home Office statement did not rule out talks. The Government, he said, was in a difficult position after the French court decision that the case was politically inspired.

If Mr Shayler was to be put on trial there would be extensive publicity, as well as embarrassment for ministers who in Opposition had supported the idea that whistleblowers be allowed a "public interest" defence.

Yesterday Mr Shayler was still in

Paris, but his lawyer said that he believed it was possible for him to travel if he wanted. Britain would then have to track him down and persuade the host country to allow extradition.

Speaking in the *Mail* on Sunday yesterday, Mr Shayler said: "I spent four months in prison for telling the truth about the failures of the British intelligence services. I may be bloodied but I am certainly unbowled. Britain has been shown up in front of the rest of Europe by this week's decision."

He first approached the newspaper 18 months ago with claims of incompetence and bungling within MI5. Yesterday he said he could not speak further because it might be used against him.

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH skipper whose crew gave up during an attempt to break the record for rowing across the Atlantic is hoping to recruit a new team and carry on, his father said.

The *Atlantic Endeavour* set off to beat the 35-day record — set by a French boat in 1992 — seemed finished last week after crew members jumped ship in the Cape Verde Islands amid complaints of poor conditions and fatigue. Roy Finlay, 36, the captain, has refused to admit defeat and last night re-

ceived assurances of continued support from at least one sponsor.

His father, Bob Finlay, said that the former naval diver from Renfrewshire was seeking a fresh team of 16 rowers on the islands and hoped to set off for Barbados once the boat's generator has been repaired. He said: "It won't be a record attempt now but they will cross the Atlantic with the boat to Barbados."

"One of our sponsors has been in touch expressing sup-

port for Roy and saying that he has their backing to carry on, which is great news."

Kenneth Crutchlow, of the Ocean Rowing Society, which oversees record attempts, said that the unplanned stop in Cape Verde would not invalidate a record attempt. The boat had, however, a lot to make up to overcome a poor start.

"To break the record they needed to keep up an average 100 miles a day and the best they have managed is 72."

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THE TIMES

Chaucer people

Michael Carrington

Popular TV series

stores, Carol Midgley

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Chaucer? Not many people know that

Michael Caine is role model for popular TV version of 'under-read' stories, Carol Midgley reports

ANIMATORS trying to make a popular television version of *The Canterbury Tales* turned to the cinema for role models. The result is that Christmas audiences will see Geoffrey Chaucer giving sardonic asides influenced heavily by Michael Caine in *Alfie*.

Scenes of pilgrims riding on horseback have been based on footage of riders in the westerns *The Searchers* and *Unforgiven*. The creators were determined to make the animation realistic and modern while remaining faithful to the original in an attempt to bring Chaucer to the masses.

"The idea is to get more people interested in Chaucer — he is very under-read," Jonathan Myerson, the director, said. "But once you see the characters talking in sentences they just burst into life. My children have seen it and they were transfixed," Myerson,

who also directed the Emmy-award winning series *Shakespeare - The Animated Tales* and *Testament - The Bible in Animation*, said that he wanted to get the body language just right while the medieval pilgrims were on horseback.

"I sat down with the director of the pilgrim sequence and watched John Wayne in *The Searchers* and Clint Eastwood in *Unforgiven*. We wanted to look at how they had filmed someone on a horse, what camera angles they used." The portrayal of Chaucer himself is influenced by Caine in *Alfie* because this Chaucer turns to the camera to speak about the others in the same way as Caine's character in the 1966 film.

Six tales — by the Nun's Priest, the Knight, the Wife of Bath, the Merchant, the Pardoner and the Franklin — have been adapted for family



Caine in *Alfie*: model for the animated Chaucer

viewing and translated into Middle English, modern English and Welsh for two 30-minute films. Dr Chris Paige from Cambridge University acted as the Middle English adviser. The pilgrims' script, which provides the link between the tales, has been created from an amalgam of all the snippets of their backchat and dialogue over the three-day journey to Canterbury.

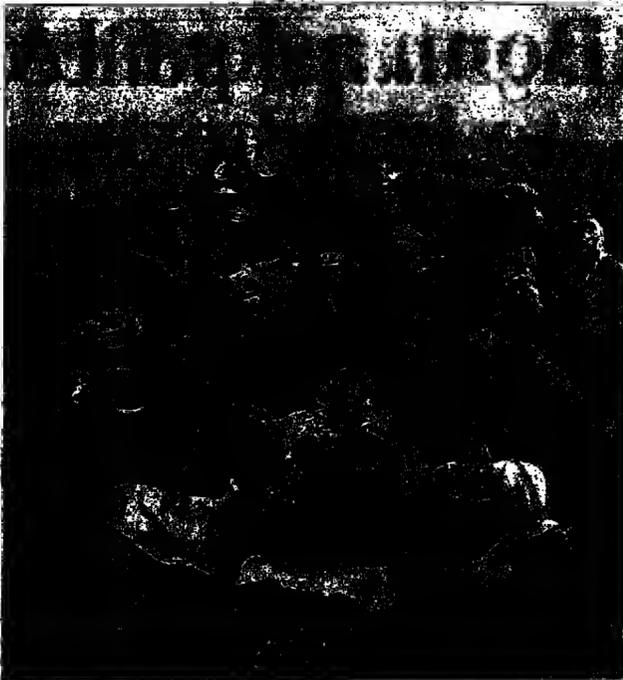
"Chaucer didn't have dramatisation in mind so I think I may be the first person to take

all of Chaucer's lines, jumble them up then stick them back together in an order which would bring the banter between the pilgrims to dramatic life," Myerson said.

"I've translated the modern English script very loosely at times and I've massacred Chaucer's metre and rhyme but it's all dubbable back into Chaucer. I don't think he'd mind. Like Shakespeare, he knew all about reworking other people's material."

The animation has been made jointly by BBC Wales and the Welsh independent channel S4C. The modern English and Welsh versions will be shown at Christmas, while the Middle English version is expected to be reserved for schools and colleges.

There are now plans to make a third film including the Miller and Reeve's tales, which are more bawdy in content, involving buttocks and flatulence. Myerson is confident that he can maintain its status as family viewing. "A lot of it is just farce. It is fairly harmless. You can sidestep a lot of the naughtiness."



Fastest pilgrims in the West: the animated characters on their way to Canterbury

BBC hopes Tweenies will follow Teletubbies

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CHILDREN who are too old for the Teletubbies but too young for school will have a new set of television characters to keep them occupied — the Tweenies.

The new series will centre on four characters who, like the 3 to 5-year-olds at which it is aimed, play and explore the world around them. Jake, Fizz, Mito and Bella will be helped in their adventures by two adults.

The new characters will resemble real children more closely than the Teletubbies. An independent programme maker, Tell-Tale productions, has been commissioned to make 260 episodes.

BBC managers hope the Tweenies catch the imagination of youngsters in the same way as the Teletubbies, who earned the corporation £23 million last year through overseas sales and merchandising. The Tweenies are not intended to replace the Teletubbies, however. Filming on a new series of Teletubbies will begin next year.

New unit to fight resistant bacteria

By A CORRESPONDENT

A NEW surveillance unit is being set up to curb the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The Antibiotic Resistance Monitoring and Reference Laboratory, to be based at the Public Health Laboratory Service headquarters in London, will be central to the national campaign against antibiotic resistance recently proposed by the Standing Medical Advisory Committee.

Dr David Livermore, director of the new laboratory, said: "Resistance is increasing worldwide. When penicillin was first introduced in the 1940s, nine out of ten *Staphylococcus aureus* — a common cause of wound infections — were sensitive. Now only one in ten is sensitive. About a third are resistant to penicillin's successor compound, methicillin. A few, from Japan and America, are resistant to vancomycin, which has been the drug of last resort."

Dr Livermore said that the laboratory would monitor the success of the campaign to reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics. "To do this we must monitor patterns and trends in resistance and relate these to antibiotic use and clinical outcomes," he said.

Funerals 'should not be dismal experience'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE average British funeral can end up as a "miserable and disappointing affair" lacking symbolism, dignity, time and comfort, according to a report published today.

Crematorium arrangements add to the "dismal experience" when mourners are herded into and through chapels on a production-line schedule, according to Malcom Johnson, chairman of the National Funerals College.

Professor Johnson, of Bristol University's Institution of Health and Ageing, calls for people to make plans for their funerals in advance of their death, rather than leaving it all to grieving relatives.

Writing in the introduction to the *Dead Citizens Charter*, Professor Johnson says: "Diana, Princess of Wales, was given a unique funeral for a unique person. Yet we are each of us unique and deserve no less."

He says the average British funeral will pass without an informed or thoughtful appreciation of the life just ended.

The charter calls for stronger regulation and monitoring of the funeral industry, and advocates re-use of old graves.

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US crime at lowest for 23 years

By Ian Brodie

AMERICA'S crime rate reached its lowest level for 23 years, the FBI reported yesterday. After skyrocketing in the 1980s, the number of serious crimes has now gone down for six years. Murders and robberies showed the steepest decline, a drop of 7 per cent between 1996 and last year.

President Clinton gave a warning against complacency and there is still a burglary every 13 seconds, a robbery every minute, a rape every five minutes and a murder every half an hour.

There were nearly 13.2 million serious offences: a rate of nearly 5,000 for every 100,000 residents and a decrease of 3 per cent.

Several reasons are becoming clear for the downward trend, which now goes beyond a statistical blip. Criminal elements of America's baby-boom generation are growing more law-abiding with age. Also, the crack epidemic has passed its peak. The prison population is at a record 1.2 million, with many serving longer sentences.

Police have been sent back to patrolling on foot or bicycle and there are more of them. The low unemployment rate and good economic conditions also help.

Bonn asks CIA to hand over old Stasi files

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE new German Government has asked the United States to return a trove of espionage files obtained by the CIA from East Germany after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

It is not the first time the Germans have sought to recover the files, which include the identity of thousands of Western agents who worked for the Stasi, the East German state security apparatus.

The earlier requests were rebuffed and there is no indication that they will be heeded this time, despite German insistence that all files that once belonged to East Germany are now the property of the Bonn Government.

Acquisition of the Cold War files is regarded as one of the CIA's greatest coups. How and when they fell into American hands remains a mystery. By one account, they were obtained by bribing a Soviet military intelligence officer who was in charge of transporting the documents to Moscow. German intelligence officials have on occasions been allowed to review the Stasi files, but never as fully as they would like because of CIA fears over leaks.

New details emerged yesterday in *The Washington Post*, which said the files were

stored at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Each of thousands of index cards was said to contain an agent's name, address, code-names, pseudonyms used on passports, missions performed and even pay records.

One of the reasons given for the continued secrecy is the possible danger to the life of anyone suspected of providing the files to the CIA. Former East German intelligence officers are said to be still bent on revenge. The death of a former high-ranking Stasi officer in a car accident in Portugal was investigated by German intelligence as a possible murder linked to his collaboration with Western authorities after

the fall of communism. The CIA was said to have contacted many of the individuals in the files in an attempt to "cauterise" them against approaches by Russian intelligence, which also has most of the names from old KGB files.

Another reason for the CIA not returning the files is that they are still useful for turning up Cold War spies, as shown by the conviction in Washington only last month of two former campus radicals who now face life in prison.

Theresa Squillace, 40, a lawyer at the Pentagon, and her husband, Kurt Stand, 43, were recruited at college and worked for the Stasi through the 1970s and 1980s, prosecutors said. In a court affidavit, an FBI agent said Squillace was identified in her Stasi file by her real name and also under a false name of Mary Miller which was used to provide her with a British passport.

The couple were arrested in an FBI sting after trying to re-activate their spy ring by offering classified material to the South African Communist Party. Yesterday's report said the couple were among a handful of individuals who have been charged with spying in America and overseas as a result of the Stasi files.

Aircraft hits new heights

Washington: An American ER2 aircraft has broken the altitude record for medium-weight planes by soaring to 68,700ft, the space agency NASA said. The record was set on Thursday during a scientific mission. The old record was 62,500ft, set by a Canadian P42 aircraft in 1988. (AFP)



President Clinton is greeted by US soldiers on a visit to a base near the Korean Demilitarised Zone yesterday

Clinton urges Korea vigilance

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SEOUL

DRESSED in battle fatigues, President Clinton yesterday urged American troops on the last frontier of the Cold War to stay vigilant as North Korea continued to deny access to an underground bunker

that is suspected to be part of a nuclear weapons programme.

North Korea accused the US of "wanton intrusion" into its affairs and has demanded \$300 million (£180 million) for access to the bunker, which would be forfeited if the claim proved untrue.

The President's visit to South Korea coincides with increasing evidence that the Pyongyang regime is continuing its long-range missile programme and pursuing exports to Iran, Syria and Libya.

It follows North Korea's launching of a multistage missile in August which crossed northern Japan, and which enables the regime to hit targets in Japan and possibly Hawaii and Alaska.

Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State, said North Korea's failure to stop missile development and discontinue exports had brought relations to "a critical juncture".

Mr Clinton told Koreans at the weekend that he supported President Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy" of engagement with the North and that the four-party peace talks, involving North and South Korea, the United States and China, were still the best avenue to a lasting settlement.

"North Korea's recent actions, including the Taepodong missile launch and the construction of a suspect underground facility are cause for deep concern," he said. "We have made it clear to Pyongyang that it must satisfy



President Clinton joins his half-brother Roger, a singer, in Seoul for the recording of a television show. The President made his surprise appearance on stage after meeting President Kim Dae Jung during his state visit

our concerns and that further provocation will threaten the progress we have made."

An alternative name for President Kim's policy is "sweet and sour" — the second visit to North Korea by a southern tourist ship last week being the latest sweetener to his warning to the North: "We will not tolerate any possible attempts by North Korea to proliferate nuclear weapons, missiles and other weapons of mass destruction."

Mr Clinton said Congress would be unwilling to continue funding the 1994 Geneva agreement, under which the US finances two light-water nuclear reactors — which are expected to provide electricity in the North — in return for an end to the nuclear programme.

South Korean ships, carrying more than 700 visitors are

earning big tourist returns for the North, although visitors are channelled along roads hemmed in with barbed wire and prevented from meeting local people.

Mr Clinton had high praise for his host's democratic credentials. "President Kim is one of the world's most eloquent advocates for the proposition that democracy and prosperity must go hand in hand," he said. "Asian countries that are responding to the crisis by deepening their democracy, such as Thailand and Korea, are faring better because the difficult solutions they propose have more legitimacy with their people."

Mr Clinton said that "reckless war provocation moves" by the US were driving the peninsula towards nuclear war. (AFP)

Getty gets \$15m for two-bed top flat

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

HIGH on San Francisco's Russian Hill, a 24th-floor penthouse has been sold by Billy Getty, of the Getty Oil dynasty, for \$15 million (£9 million) — thought to be the highest price paid for a flat of its size.

It is, according to his excited estate agent, "a total trophy apartment, possibly the best in the world".

The two-bedroom top-floor flat in the heart of San Francisco's most sought-after neighbourhood certainly has unrivalled 360-degree views of the surrounding bay — when it is not shrouded in fog. It was bought fully furnished by Charlton Buckley, a local broadcasting tycoon flush from the recent sale of a group of radio stations.

Mr Getty had lived at 1750 Taylor Street for less than a year, but Mr Buckley's unsolicited offer reportedly gave him a \$5 million gain on his investment, and easily beat New York's record for a similar apartment — \$9.5 million paid by David Koch, the billionaire, for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's Manhattan home three years ago. Mr Buckley's new flat is "one of a kind", his estate agent insisted. "There's nothing like it in the world."

Mr Getty and his friend Vanessa Jarman are on holiday in Baja, California, while decorators swarm over a new and much larger home he has bought in San Francisco's Pacific Heights, where his neighbours will include the author Danielle Steele.

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Libya to spurn bombing trial request

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Libya 'to spurn bombing trial request'

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH officials are bracing themselves for the harsh public acknowledgement that Libya is unwilling ever to comply with the request to send the two Lockerbie bomb suspects for trial.

If Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, does not send an unequivocal reply within the next three weeks, Britain and America will take his silence as a refusal. They will then have to decide whether to seek a toughening of United Nations sanctions on Libya or seek some other way of forcing it to comply with UN resolutions.

No formal deadline has been set, but the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am bombing is next month. The offer to hold a trial in The Netherlands was made in August, but since then the Libya regime has vacillated and prevaricated to try to avoid giving a definitive answer.

Britain has not made any public threats about what it might do if the Libyans renege on the offer. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said only that he believed international support for continuing sanctions would be strengthened if Libya were to turn down a solution that it proposed itself.

Madeline Albright, the American Secretary of State, has been more outspoken. Not hiding her scepticism when announcing the offer in the summer, she said the US would call Colonel Gaddafi's bluff, and gave a warning of tougher sanctions if he rejected the Anglo-American proposals.

Mr Cook briefed relatives of the victims last week on the Libyan response. Many had urged Britain to accept Libya's earlier proposals for a trial in The Netherlands as the only way of bringing the two suspects, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimah, to justice.

He told them that Libya would not respond until its concerns on three main points were satisfied. They were: whether any Libyan witnesses could be arrested in The Netherlands; whether sanctions would be suspended once the men were sent for trial; and whether any prison sentences could be served in Libya.

British officials in New York say witnesses would have immunity in The Hague, but imprisonment in Libya is out of the question.

Baghdad takes gamble in war of documents

IRAQ, by denying United Nations requests for records of its biological and chemical weaponry, apparently is gambling that Britain and the United States will not go to war over missing documents.

Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that most of the 12 categories of documents requested last week by Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, had either been destroyed or did not exist.

"Butler has asked for a series of alleged documents," Mr Aziz said. "He has asked for alleged documents that do not exist. He has asked for old stories which were settled in the past and he also asked for access to all the archives of the Government of Iraq."

"We told him we cannot provide documents that do not exist. It is quite provocative if you want to dig into the whole archive of the Government of Iraq, which might take decades to investigate. This is the crisis."

With the UN awaiting "clarification" of Iraq's stance today, President Clinton, travelling in Korea, adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Sandy Berger, his National Security Adviser, repeated Washington's view, however, that Iraq had an obligation to produce the documents and said that Washington was still ready to use force.

"We have said all along that the issue here is whether Iraq will meet its obligations under the Security Council resolutions and whether UNSCOM is able to do its work," he said. "If we reach the conclusion that the answer to those questions is negative, we obviously are prepared to act."

Missing diaries are at the centre of dispute, writes

James Bone
in New York

President Clinton made the surrender of weapons-related documents one of the five conditions for Iraqi compliance when he called off US air strikes after Baghdad's promise to resume co-operation with UN inspectors.

The President made a particular point of mentioning a handwritten logbook by an Iraqi sergeant that was snatched away from the UN inspector who found it at Iraq's air force headquarters in July. The logbook is believed to show that Iraq used only half as many chemical weapons during its 1980-88 war with Iran as it has

disclosed, raising questions about its remaining stockpile.

The so-called "air-base document" was one of the documents requested by Mr Butler last week in the first test of Iraq's readiness to co-operate fully with the UN inspectors.

Iraq told the UN on Friday that it was ready to consider disclosing relevant portions of the air force document in the presence of Prakash Shah, the UN Secretary-General's envoy in Iraq. But it said that most of the other documents had either been destroyed or had never existed.

In particular, it said that, despite UN tests revealing the presence of VX nerve gas on missile fragments excavated in the Iraqi desert, it had no records of large-scale production of the lethal chemical agent in 1990. Iraq also denied that it had any documentation of its purported destruction of biological and chemical weapons in 1991 or of its claimed disposal of tons of Scud missile propellant.

Even though UN inspectors have already seen several pages from the diary of a Brigadier f5mail, of the country's surface-to-surface missile force, Iraq said that the diary had since been destroyed. A similar diary kept by an "Engineer Muqdam" dealing with the indigenous production of missile engines, of which UNSCOM had already seen 11 pages, was also said to have been destroyed.

In addition, Iraq said that a January 1991 report by Lieutenant-General Hazzem Abdul Razzaq, commander of its surface-to-surface missile force, mentioned in his recent memoirs, had also been destroyed.



Aziz denies existence of disputed documents



Palestinian police entering the West Bank village of Anabta yesterday under the continuing handover of land by Israel

Palestinians to open their first air link with the outside world

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

A POTENT new symbol of Palestinian sovereignty will be unveiled tomorrow with the inauguration of the \$64 million (£39.5 million) Yassir Arafat International Airport.

On Wednesday Mr Arafat's jet is due to take off from the new runway at Dahaniya in the south of the Gaza Strip to fly him on an official visit to France. Previously, he would have had to drive more than 200 miles into Egypt.

Palestinian officials said the first plane to touch down would be from Egypt, followed by flights from Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and The Netherlands.

The long-awaited opening, combined with Friday's implementation of the first

West Bank land transfer under the Wye land-for-peace deal are likely to guarantee Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, a more than cordial welcome when he holds talks in London this week with Tony Blair.

Within a few weeks, Palestinian Airlines will begin regular commercial flights from the airport, marking a new era for Gaza's one million Arab inhabitants. The fleet consists of two Fokker 50s and a Boeing 727 donated by Prince Waheed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia. The airline, with 20 Egyptian-trained pilots, hopes to acquire an Airbus from France next year.

Details of the protocol enabling the airport to open after a two-year delay were published yesterday after a signing ceremony behind closed doors in Tel Aviv. Al-

though the Palestinians plan to undercut the Israeli national carrier El Al by \$140 on a round trip to Athens, a popular destination, it has been decided that for security reasons no Israelis will be allowed to use the airport. However, overall security control at the airport will be exercised by Israelis, who will have the right to question and search passengers and planes, with the exception of Mr Arafat's jet.

Under the new agreement, security procedures for Palestinians leaving by air will be less arduous than for those leaving by land.

Another section of the operating agreement says that national carriers of countries that are hostile to Israel, such as Syria and Iran, will not be permitted to operate. The airport will initially be able to handle 750,000 passengers a year.

Iranian adulterer cheats death

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TEHRAN

AN IRANIAN man condemned to death by stoning for committing adultery was acquitted because he managed to free himself as the sentence was being carried out, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Khosrow Ebrahimi, from Lahijan in northern Iran, managed to extricate himself from the ground where he was buried to the waist as local people threw stones at him in accordance with the Islamic penalty for adultery, the daily *Hamshahri* said.

Islamic law prescribes execution by stoning for adulter-

ers, but the condemned is acquitted if he or she manages to survive the hail of stones.

The law insists that the stonoes must be neither so small as to be ineffective, nor large enough to knock out the condemned person in a single blow. A condemned man is buried to the waist and a woman to her armpits.

Muhammad Hussein Abedi, the prosecuting judge, told *Hamshahri* that Ebrahimi had managed to extricate himself from the ground "using the strength of his body" and was acquitted in accordance with the law.

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a vigilance

Christians die in Indonesian Muslim attacks

FROM PATRICIA NUNAN IN JAKARTA

INDONESIAN troops last night struggled to maintain order in Jakarta after a Muslim mob went on the rampage, setting fire to churches and beating Christians to death.

At least six people were killed in the sectarian violence, when the Muslims, some chanting "Death to the infidels", attacked Catholic and Protestant targets and beat and hacked to death at least five people.

There were signs last night that the violence was spreading to the Chinese community and hundreds of soldiers wearing riot gear and backed by armoured cars attempted to establish a security cordon to contain the lawlessness.

Shops in the central Jakarta business district closed early with merchants boarding up windows and doors.

The anti-Chinese violence erupted after a gang fight between Muslims and Christians claimed six lives earlier in the day. The sectarian clashes reportedly broke out after a row over the opening times of a Christian-owned gambling hall.

Later, a mob of Muslim youths set fire to a Protestant

church and ransacked a Catholic church after hearing rumours that some Christian worshippers had set fire to a mosque.

In one incident, the mob broke through the front doors of the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, interrupting a wedding.

They overturned pews and smashed staves and confessional boxes. The priest, the bride, the groom and wedding guests ran to the safety of a nearby community centre.

Shortly after calm was restored, a mob — armed with sickles, bamboo sticks and swords — hacked to death a Christian from the eastern city of Ambon.

"I just don't understand why they did this," said Father Soni Wangkang, from the Sacred Heart church. He said that many of his 6,000 flock were ethnic Chinese.

"But many of our people are also Indonesians," Father Wangkang added. "All sorts of ethnic groups worship here."

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation: about 90 per cent of its 202 million people are Muslim. The ethnic Chinese minority

makes up about 4 per cent of the population.

The group is widely resented for its perceived dominance of the merchant class. Rumours that ethnic Chinese might have provoked the incident between Muslims and Christians are now being blamed for the violence against the ethnic Chinese minority later in the day.

The ethnic Chinese, however, are also the frequent targets of violence during times of civil unrest.

About 1,200 people — many of them ethnic Chinese — were killed during the rioting that engulfed Jakarta last May. Thousands of buildings and vehicles were destroyed, with widespread looting breaking out.

Yesterday's renewed violence came amid heightened security after clashes between the armed forces and student protesters last week, which claimed 16 lives.

Yesterday General Wiranto, the chief of the armed forces, said that 144 troops involved in the shooting would be court-martialled.



An Indonesian Christian becomes the victim of mob violence in Jakarta yesterday

WORLD IN BRIEF

Feminist author in Dhaka court

Delhi: Taslima Nasreen, the feminist Bangladeshi author who outraged right-wing Muslim clerics with her views on sex and religion, surrendered to the High Court in Dhaka yesterday after two months on the run (Christopher Thomas writes). She is accused of outraging Islamic sentiments.

Ms Nasreen fled Bangladesh in August 1994, after Islamic radicals demanded that she be hanged. The popular mood in Bangladesh cares little for the somewhat contrived controversy. Ms Nasreen was released on bail after yesterday's half-hour hearing and returned immediately into hiding. Later she said in an interview on a mobile telephone: "I'm happy to be freed on bail but my life is still at risk."

De Niro anger

Paris: Robert de Niro used the release in Paris of his latest film, *Rouin*, to attack France over his nine-hour interrogation earlier this year in connection with a prostitution ring (Adam Sage writes). In a newspaper interview the American actor, who was not charged, said: "France's guests deserve to be treated better... I am still angry today." His comments followed the first week of a trial of four people who deny that they procured girls as young as 15 for celebrities, industrialists, politicians and Arab princes.

Prince 'jailed servants'

Cairo: The Egyptian parliament wants to question the Government about a Saudi prince who allegedly turned part of a hotel suite into a prison for his servants. Prince Turki bin Abdel Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, has been investigated by police for allegedly locking up his Egyptian servants in the 29th-floor suite where he and his wife have lived for years. Two of the Prince's servants escaped from a room in the Ramses Hilton Hotel by knotting sheets together and lowering themselves through a window to the 24th floor. (AP)

Voyage to Holy See

Rome: The Pope, garlanded with flowers, accepts a Samoan's gift of a carved model canoe, symbolising the Church. It was presented during a Mass in St Peter's yesterday to celebrate a synod of bishops from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa which is being held in Rome until December 12. The lively service opened with the blare of a conch shell and was accompanied by the music of drums and guitars. (AP)

Here is the nudes...

Welipa, Australia: Organisers of an annual charity event are hoping for an entry into the *Guinness Book of Records* — for a live radio interview involving almost 200 nude men. The naked runners packed around a telephone booth for the interview after completing a number of laps of Curricular Way, a large roundabout near the centre of this bauxite mining town 1,450 miles northwest of the state capital of Brisbane, collecting money in plastic bags for the Flying Doctor service. (AP)

Hutchence memorial fails to heal family rift

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY



Hutchence: "a sensitive and loving soul"

HOPES of a healing of the rift that has divided the family of Michael Hutchence, the late rock star, since he died a year ago faded yesterday as Paula Yates and close relatives of the singer stayed away from a memorial service in Australia.

Hundreds of fans gathered at a garden of remembrance in Sydney to mark the first anniversary of his death. The ceremony was more notable, however, for those who did not attend than for those who did. Michael's

father, Kell, and his brother Rhett were there, but his mother and sister were not. Neither was Paula Yates, the mother of his only child, Tiger Lily, who earlier made it clear she wanted to grieve at home in Britain.

She turned down an invitation to attend the service from Michael's father, who was clearly upset by the absence of Paula, his granddaughter and other members of his family. "They were all invited, but it was up to them," he said afterwards. "I would have loved to have had Paula and Tiger here but they couldn't make it," said Mr Hutchence, who considered trying to keep

his granddaughter in Australia who she visited earlier this year.

There have also been strained relations between Paula, Mr Hutchence and his first wife Patricia Glassop and daughter Tina, who failed to attend. A wrangle over Michael's multimillion-pound estate, much of which is believed to be in offshore bank accounts and a web of obscure trust funds, has also heightened family tensions.

The feud prompted Pastor Denis Paterson during yesterday's service to call on those concerned to move on from the "indescribable" grief that had befallen them. The service was held a

year to the day after the INXS lead singer committed suicide in a Sydney hotel. He was found hanging by a leather belt from the door of his room. As at the funeral, a huge bouquet of blue irises adorned the altar.

A much larger display of flowers, sent by absent members of INXS, who said they wanted to remember him in private, was placed nearby. The memorial service closed with the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Michael's life. On it a simple inscription read: "A sensitive and loving soul who touched hearts around the world. So dearly loved. So sadly missed. Stay young."

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Casanova: feminist detractor says he mistook a few sighs for ecstasy

Casanova's conquests split Paris

New book on bedroom legend sparks a row over his prowess, Adam Sage writes

SEX has replaced socialism and existentialism as the main talking point on Paris's Left Bank, with intellectuals locked in a row over Casanova's prowess and morals. The debate has been sparked by the publication of a book by one of France's trendiest philosophers, Philippe Sollers, who declares his admiration for a "grandiose being" and announces the somewhat optimistic plan of following Casanova's example. The work has turned the 62-year-old thinker into the darling of the French media but has led to the country's feminists, led by the journalist and author, Françoise Giroud.

In a withering attack, Mme Giroud described the philosopher as a "clown" and ridiculed his claim to be the true successor of the famous 18th-century lover. Writing in the magazine, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Mme Giroud went on to denounce the Venice-born adventurer as a snob and an egotist who could not even claim to have been good in bed. "He was not the first to have mistaken a few sighs for ecstasy," she said, adding that Casanova's 122 conquests did not add up to more than one woman a week. "They do better in the suburbs of French cities," she wrote. Her attack drew an immediate response from M Sollers. In this week's edition of the magazine, he writes that Mme Giroud "knew a few Casanovas in her time" and hints that none of her former lovers was a match for his hero: "There are many witnesses to prove that he was loved and even adored by those



Sollers: darling of the media



Giroud: withering attack

women to whom he showed the light." M Sollers's theory is unlikely to convince the likes of Mme Giroud, but the philosopher has many followers. His work, *Casanova l'Admirable*, has reached number three in the list of best-selling French books, and has been championed throughout the French press, from the high-brow daily *Le Monde* to the women's magazine *Elle*. In it, he extols Casanova's virtues, not only as a lover — "he knew what pleasure was" — but as a thinker, a libertarian and a writer. He describes his pleasant surprise at discovering that the wanderer's memoirs had been written in French, and implies that this adds significant weight to his claim that Casanova was an intellectual. "People

did not want Casanova to be seen as a writer, so they turned him into a beast," said M Sollers after a misty-eyed account of his pilgrimage to Casanova's grave in Dux, near Prague. "They were happy to recount his exploits, but on condition that they deprived the central character of his depth." The philosopher believes that he has put the record straight in his book, published on the 200th anniversary of his hero's death. "Casanova's life was a chef d'oeuvre," M Sollers said, adding that his own earlier passion for left-wing causes, and notably for Maoism, had been "an amusement". He declared: "Reading whippers into my ear. Reading him has the same effect as a drug. He is a grandiose being."

Strike to disrupt Tunnel trains

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

RAIL traffic in France, Italy, Spain and other European Union states will be disrupted when rail workers strike today in protest at European Commission plans to promote privatised freight services.

Only one in three Eurostar services through the Channel Tunnel is expected to run as transport unions demonstrate their anger at Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner, over a move that they see as a threat to state control of the rail system.

Disruption caused by the one-day action will be severe in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece, where unions are pledged to fight any weakening of the state rail transport monopoly. Workers in Germany and Austria are expected to strike later in the week.

Mr Kinnock said the plan, to be considered by ministers on November 30, was aimed at saving jobs and preventing rapid decline of the railways.

Italy asks Bonn to seek trial of Kurd fugitive

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AN INCREASINGLY embarrassed Italy yesterday appealed to a reluctant Bonn to solve its quandary over Abdullah Ocalan, the fugitive Kurdish rebel leader, by seeking his extradition for trial in Germany. Italian officials said Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, would raise the issue — which has severely damaged Italy's ties with Turkey — in a meeting with Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, in Bonn this week. Germany said last week it had no intention of asking for Mr Ocalan, 49, to be extradited. But Signor D'Alema said yesterday that it "seemed reasonable" to expect him to ask for the extradition of the founder of the PKK (Workers' Party), who was arrested at Rome airport on 12 November after arriving from Moscow on a false passport. Mr Ocalan was freed from a military hospital and fled under house arrest. He is reported to be under guard in a secluded villa on the Lazio coast near Rome. The Ocalan affair has

turned into a diplomatic nightmare for Signor D'Alema, a former Communist who came to power at the head of a centre-left coalition last month. He has consistently argued that Italy is merely following due legal process, and that it cannot hand Mr Ocalan over because Turkey enforces the death penalty. But he has clearly been taken aback by the furious reaction in Turkey, which regards Mr Ocalan as an arch-criminal and blames him for thousands of deaths during the Kurdish insurgency. Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Prime Minister, said yesterday that Italy had "opened its arms to the world's bloodiest terrorist". He said Ankara would "retaliate", but did not elaborate. At a weekend summit in Zagreb of Central European leaders, Signor D'Alema said he found such anti-Italian rhetoric "incomprehensible". In Karlsruhe, the Office of the Federal Prosecutor said it was "renewing" a German warrant for Mr Ocalan's arrest, first issued in 1990. But a government spokesman said it did not imply that Bonn would change its mind.

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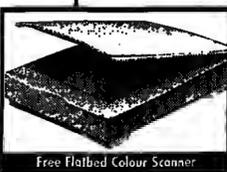
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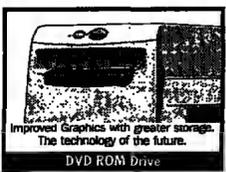
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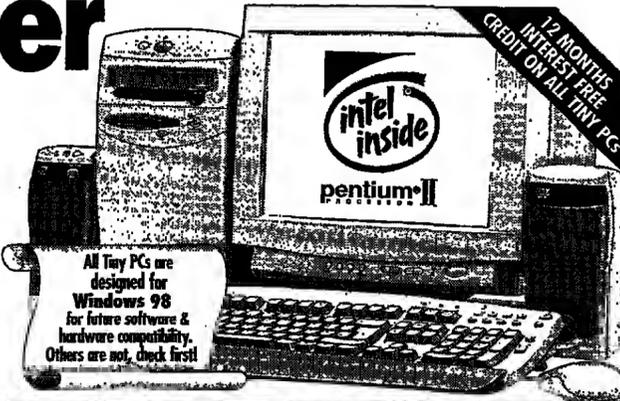
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Product Summary

Flexible working and loopholes bring back Germany's drive

The time has come, I think, to revise the idea that the German economy is an over-regulated behemoth desperately in need of lessons from Britain. There are, of course, irksome obstacles — set up and maintained by the unions — to retail trade, but over the past few years it has become plain that there is strong individual determination to get round the silliest of restrictions.

I buy bread rolls at the same time as my newspapers, at 7am at a kiosk that has been transformed into a profitable convenience store. That would have been unthinkable in 1993. Petrol sta-

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Shopping Hours Act which make provision for bakers — everybody with an entrepreneurial nose has become a baker — and for outlets catering for travellers.

Bakers — suddenly selling jam, milk and many other foodstuffs — work on Sundays. Furniture shops open on Sundays too, although technically they cannot sell on that day (a post-dated cheque usually solves that problem), while department stores and supermarkets work until 8pm on normal weekdays.

That is still a long way from liberal British regulations, but there is not much

difference in actual shopping habits. If I want to buy milk, whisky, bread, a newspaper and a bunch of flowers — my usual Sunday survival ration — it is almost equally easy in Britain and Germany.

Germany has undergone a quiet revolution over the past five years, and we did not really notice. Only the great Rover productivity debate flushed it to the surface.

Leading German executives, speaking at a dinner organised by Mercedes-Benz and The Times last week, were quick to reassure British listeners that the productivity gap could be

bridged. Investment training and shrewd management were the elements that would transform Britain, according to the Rover chief, Dr Walter Hasselkus. "With more investment, training and co-operative unions we can establish production in Britain that is world-class." The analysis by Dr Hasselkus — and by other senior executives from the likes of Bayer, Bosch and Hoechst — will be carried in a special supplement with The Times next week.

The contours of the Rover deal on flexible working were already shaping up at the weekend. Under the propos-

als, up to 4,000 Rover workers will be bussed by the company during slack times at Longbridge to Solihull or Cowley. Conventional overtime payments will go; the average 37-hour week will be cut to 35, and there will be more flexibility.

Hourly wages will be replaced by fixed monthly salaries. Extra time will be chucked up and can be used as paid holiday when business is weak.

These working practices have been the German norm since the mid-1990s. Volkswagen — threatened with 30,000 job losses — agreed a four-day flexible week, which of-

ten including Saturdays. The Ford plant in Cologne technically operates a 35-hour week, but in reality workers put in 37.5 hours and the extra time is logged in a "time account".

The company can require an additional 70 hours a year from shopfloor or office workers, and these also go on the "time account". The result: expensive special shifts in boom times, lay-offs and over-production in bad times, have become a thing of the past. Opel sets no fixed working week, and has instead a "time corridor" of between 31 and 38.75

hours. Audi has the option of having its workers put in four Saturdays a month during a busy spring, compensated with time off in the autumn.

This principle — less, but more flexible work for the same money — has spread beyond the car industry into most German manufacturing. There is an entrepreneurial energy that is too often ignored as the British nurture the cliché of over-protected and over-indulged Germans.

Significantly, 84 out of the Boston Consulting Group's list of 500 most dynamic European companies are German — smart software businesses are in the lead.

Russians grieve for murdered politician

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN ST PETERSBURG

THE funeral of Galina Starovoiava, the murdered reformist politician, which is to be held tomorrow at Gorskovo near St Petersburg, will symbolise for many Russians the desperate state of affairs in which their country approaches the millennium.

Mrs Starovoiava, 52, the shining light of Russian's pro-democracy and anti-corruption movement, was shot three times in the head while returning to her block of flats in St Petersburg on Friday night.

Although she is the seventh Duma deputy to be killed since 1993 and the fifth victim of a political assassination in St Petersburg in the past six weeks, the death of Mrs Starovoiava has shocked Russians, a usually unshockable people weary of the steady stream of grisly murders that has plagued their country over the past decade.

The shock comes partly because Mrs Starovoiava was a

woman, but also because she was so famously untainted by the world of big business and corrupt politics that claims so many of the country's victims of contract killings.

There is no doubt that it was a contract killing. Entering her block of flats on the Griboyedov Canal, Mrs Starovoiava and Ruslan Linkov her young aide, were attacked by two people armed with a Beretta pistol and Agran 2000 sub-machine gun. Both weapons were left at the scene of the crime and Mr Linkov is still critically ill in hospital.

Sergei Stepashin, the Interior Minister, and Vladimir Putin, the director of the Federal Security Service, flew to St Petersburg on Saturday under orders from President Yeltsin to take charge of the investigation. They promised to find the killers and to prosecute them under the country's laws against terrorism.

"It is one of the black pages



An elderly man in St Petersburg places flowers beside a portrait of Galina Starovoiava, the murdered deputy

in our modern history," Mr Putin said. "It does not do much to improve our reputation, the reputation of the country as a whole."

Those sentiments were shared by the 200 or so mourners who gathered in the cold wet wind of St Petersburg's Palace Square on Saturday to demonstrate their anger at the death of their heroine and to celebrate her life.

"Politics, as I felt during the past night, has become the art of spitting on the soul," Viktor

Krivulin, a poet and a candidate for the regional legislature, said. The demonstrators held photographs of the stubborn and idealistic reformer with those of Andrei Sakharov and of Mr Yeltsin, whose anti-corruption crusade drew Mrs Starovoiava's unwavering support in the early days of her political career under Mikhail Gorbachev, the former President.

Mr Gorbachev described Mrs Starovoiava as "erudite, brave, active". He said: "This

is a serious loss not just for those close to her, but also for Russia."

Mrs Starovoiava, an ethnographer, was elected to the Soviet parliament from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, as a sympathiser with the campaign to reclaim the Armenian ethnic enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan.

Later she became Mr Yeltsin's adviser on nationalities, but fell out with him over the war in Chechnya, to which she was strongly opposed.

In a telegram to her family, President Yeltsin described Mrs Starovoiava as "one of the most vivid figures in Russian politics" and as a person who had "consistently upheld the lofty ideals of freedom and democracy".

Many are convinced that her murder was politically motivated and many accusations have been made, mainly at the Communists and nationalist groups for whom Mrs Starovoiava rarely concealed her antipathy.

Trial to start of 'deadliest serial killer'

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A MAN suspected of being the world's deadliest serial killer goes on trial today in the west Ukrainian city of Zhitomir.

Anatoli Onuprienko, 39, told police after his arrest two and a half years ago that he had carried out 52 murders in villages around Ukraine, most of them during a period of three months in early 1996.

Without an apparent motive, he travelled around by train, stopping at remote villages, breaking into houses and slaughtering their inhabitants. But prosecutors believe he may be responsible for many more deaths during the early 1990s, when he roamed Western Europe, travelling without visas and surviving by robbery.

During his main alleged killing spree shortly before his arrest, Mr Onuprienko caused terror across rural Ukraine. He is believed to have carried out 42 murders, including eight entire families and nine children. Most of his suspected victims were shot with a hunting rifle, although one boy was also stabbed with a sharpened screwdriver. The killer would then set the houses alight before disappearing into the night.

He left no clues to his identity and his arrest came purely by chance. Answering the door to police carrying out a

routine document check, he understood to have grabbed his rifle from a cupboard. He was overpowered, and police matched the weapon with bullets from his victims.

He told investigators he had heard voices ordering him to kill, but said he considered himself healthy. He told his lawyers that he wanted to be executed. Ukraine has imposed a freeze on capital punishment, but the Government has indicated it would make an exception in his case.

Russia and the former Soviet republics have seen a growing number of serial killings. The most notorious murder on record is Andrei Chikani, who was executed in 1994 for murdering 53 boys and women in a 12-year rampage.



Onuprienko: roamed Western Europe

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The search for Hague's babes

WOMEN in politics

The Tories have 14 women MPs to Labour's 101. Grace Bradberry looks at the Conservative Party's inability to engage women in its senior ranks

This Saturday hundreds of women will file into Solihull's National Motorcycle Museum for the 67th Conservative Women's Conference. Listening to the clip of all those court shoes passing the vintage Triumphs, hearing the confident analyses of speeches by Ann Widdecombe and William Hague, among others, you might imagine that all was well. But no one knows better than the Tories that they are in a parlous state as far as women are concerned.

Although they have a proliferation of envelope-stuffers, only 14 Conservative women sit on the green leather benches in Westminster. "Blair's babes" show the Tory party in a sorry light. The traditional Tory women who flock to their annual jamboree are now under threat, blamed by some for blocking the selection of more women candidates. But this is to oversimplify the party's woman troubles. They run much deeper. So what is the problem?

Powerful women have always had a rough ride in the party. Nancy Astor's arrival at the House of Commons in 1919, for example, was not universally welcomed. "A woman in the Commons is like a woman in my bathroom," barked Winston Churchill. After the 1931 general election, 13 Conservative women MPs were metaphorically using Winston's soap and running long baths. Would there be no end to this madness? Well, yes, there would.

Only 13 Conservative women were returned to Parliament in the last election, the same number as 66 years earlier. By contrast, the Labour Party has the famous 101 "Blair's babes" — Ally McBeal's mixed washroom to Winston's bathroom. This contrast worries the Conservative Party, not least because the female electorate, who played a decisive role in its postwar victories, appears to have deserted it. In 1997 the Tories won 34 per cent of the female vote, compared with 44 per cent in 1992.

No one knows whether here is a connection between the party's poor female representation and the falling women's vote — but no one can afford to discount the idea either. And so the search for "Hague's Babes" has begun, causing dissension and suspicion in a party that knows in its head that it needs more women, but can't necessarily reconcile its heart to the idea. Leading the hunt is 44-year-old Liz Buscombe, who unsuccessfully fought Slough at the last election before being enrolled and appointed the party's vice-chairman.

Baroness Buscombe is a small, blonde, fierce woman who allied her 11-plus but went on to qualify as a barrister. She is not afraid to get into a fight even one that will make her unpopular, as she proved

during the election campaign, pushing family values and her experience of motherhood in contrast to her rival, Labour's Fiona Mactaggart, who had tried to have a child outside a relationship before discovering that she was infertile.

Last year, at the party's women's conference, she said: "It is high time our party stopped talking about 'the women' as if we were from another dimension, another species. Conservative women deserve to be taken seriously, not just regarded as useful at election time and helpful in village-hall kitchens." Strong stuff from a party that flinches at talk of women's rights and that has only just dropped the requirement that prospective candidates bring their partners to selection meetings.

Lady Buscombe did indeed make a bold start. Appointed vice-chairman (women), she played a key role in drawing up *Blueprint for Change*, the consultation document used in reforming the party. That document recommended an overhaul of the Conservative women's organisation hierarchy to involve younger women, and the setting-up of a Conservative women's network to involve working women who might want to represent the party, rather than to make its scenes.

Although *Blueprint for Change* rejected the idea of positive discrimination, it suggested a rule that wherever sufficient candidates came forward, at least 25 per cent of all candidates interviewed in the first round of Westminster selection should be women. As the document acknowledged, there was a problem in finding young, professional women prepared to stand for both central and local government.



Campaign workers at Conservative headquarters in 1959. The "traditional" Tory party has a proliferation of envelope-stuffers but has failed to attract young decision-makers as candidates

Lady Buscombe is now vice-chairman (development); the word "women" has disappeared. It is still her task to flush out women candidates — only one in ten of those going for Tory selection is female — but the 25 per cent quota has vanished. The proposed Conservative women's network has become simply Conservative Network, a mixed organisation spearheaded by Lady Buscombe.

"We don't believe women today want or need to be separated from their male peer group," she says. The notoriously stick-in-the-mud selection committees are being trained to "look at the person, not at the gender". They also have to ask the same questions of each candidate. Lady Buscombe is even bullish about the fact that the party returned just five new women MPs. "They're all of a fantastic calibre. Calibre means much more to us than gender, and

that's where we differ fundamentally from Labour."

Lady Buscombe is the first of many people to tell me what a sad letdown the new Labour women have been. But weren't there some sad letdowns among the men, on all sides of the House? "The focus isn't on the weak men, it's on the weak women," she says, in an exasperated tone.

Labour's brief policy of women-only shortlists has presented the Conservatives with an insoluble problem. They need to be seen to close the gap between Labour's 101 women and their 14 (Jacqui Lait got in at a by-election) but they can't use positive discrimination, not only because it was ruled illegal, but also because the party wouldn't wear it. Denigrating Labour's "quota women" has become a desperate tactic. "I can't believe that I hear this argument," says Tessa

Keswick, the head of the Centre for Policy Studies and a powerful political hostess. "It's a typically sexist observation that just because there are 100 Labour women, they're somehow no good."

Tessa Keswick is one of few women in the party to support some form of positive discrimination. She is pessimistic about the chances, without quotas, of a swift increase in the number of Tory women MPs: "It could take 30 years, if it works at all. The leadership should have been tough in this last consultation process. It was the ideal opportunity to say 'Look, we insist on women being pushed forward in every part of constituency life'. When they went round the country they were struck by how the activists did not want any special measures to help women. That's why they took out the figure of 25 per cent. It should have been 50 per cent, in any case. There needs to be a realisation of how the system works, then it needs to be said that it's not good enough."

Talking to Conservative women about discrimination is like discussing cannibalism — it is always happening somewhere else. Theresa May, the Shadow Minister for Women and one of the five new female Conservative MPs, says: "I didn't experience any bad questions, but others did." She suggests that selection committees should include people with business backgrounds, who are used to seeing women in career roles.

Fine, if you fit this notion of a career woman. Mrs Elizabeth Sibley, who stood in the safe Labour seat of North Durham in 1992, did not. She now calls herself Liz St Clair-Legge — they separated the day after the 1992 election.

Although the former Mrs Sibley got through the selection process, she felt that her background in voluntary work had disadvantaged her. "The selection weekend had an alien and artificial environment more suited to someone from the City. I was also questioned closely by one member



Tory stalwarts Ann Widdecombe (above); Theresa May (top); and Peta Buscombe (right)

TOMORROW
Will Labour's laddish inner circle ever hand over power to Blair's babes?

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The suit that dare not speak its name



Above left: black tweed fitted sleeveless shell top, £145, and matching elasticated knee-length skirt, £135, both by Miu Miu, 123 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-409 0900); round Luca ottoman, £59-£99, by Habitat (0645 334433)

Above right: dove grey sleeveless cashmere polo-neck, £560; charcoal deep-V pea jacket, £1,350, and matching trousers, £500. All by Hermès, 179 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1014)

Right: two-tone three-quarter sleeve shirt, £140, and plum stretch gabardine fluted pencil skirt, £162, both by Boyd (0171-385 7782); green snakeskin stilettoes, £285, by Gina Couture; cream Octavia round-end unit, from £649, by Habitat

Main picture: nude pattern-punched sleeveless fitted top, £125, and mulberry pencil skirt, £159, both by Tracy Faith, from Liberty (0171-734 1234); camel siletto heels, £215, by Gina; beige Hamish sofa, from £1,099, by Habitat

Photographer: JOHN SWANNELL
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair: Debbie Morgan for Jo Hansford
Make-up: Yva Axelsohn
Model: Miele at Select



The working woman's suit has been deconstructed. Its successor is subtle, feminine and intelligent

What did the suit do to deserve the opprobrium that has been heaped on it these past few years? Accused of everything from being unimaginative to a symbol of crass, Eighties-style values, it has become a metaphor for every little setback that has waylaid the female workforce. Stopping up against a glass ceiling? You should never have worn those overbearing wide-shouldered power suits. That bumpy, anything-a-man-can-do-I-can-do-better attitude was bound to end in tears.

And yet all the suit ever wanted was to provide women with an easy way to dress. When Coco Chanel introduced matching two-piece outfits in the 1920s, the concept was breathtaking in its daring, minimalist modernity. Finally women could share the liberating certainty that men had enjoyed for years when they went to their wardrobes every morning, secure in the knowledge that a well-cut suit would be functional and stylish — as well as concealing a multitude of physical flaws. And boy, did Coco's tweed-clad girls look chic and

insouciant compared with their fussily trounced-up peers. In fact, for another four decades Chanel's two-piece blueprint did the working woman proud.

We know when the rot set in, of course. If the 1970s were the decade that declared women didn't need anything manish (casting millions of women instead into unflattering pussycat-bow dresses), the

powers that be stalk the land in pencil skirts and cardigans... except that this isn't the whole story. You have only to look at the bevy of Blairite babes to realise that the suit still has a special place in the affections of executive types. And why not?

The point is that the suit works — which is why many designers, years after decreeing it dead, still pop the occa-

sional one into the slipstream of chifon, cheesecloth and army surplus littering the catwalks (message to buyers: don't worry, there are plenty more in the showroom where this one came from). Since it is fashion's duty to move us all on, the more considerate designers have been thinking up viable alternatives. The cardigan and soft skirt/feminine dress formula was a positive move away from the jacketed suit — and at night and at weekends, nothing is prettier. But there are still times when something sleeker and with a little more presence is called for because, when it comes to the crunch, women haven't struggled with deadlines and juggled with families to find themselves harnessed back into baby-doll outfits — at least not in the office.

Enter the secret suit: the suit that dares not speak its name but does the job every bit as well as its more brazen ancestor. The secret suit might be a

cashmere tunic and trousers; it is definitely a discreetly curvy felt top with hole-punched details, worn with a narrow, below-the-knee dark skirt — and it may even take shape in a beautifully cut dress. You may not even identify it immediately as a suit, although you will recognise its quiet authority and business-like attention to cut and fabric.

For whatever its form, the secret suit will possess many virtues of the traditional suit — neatness, a flatteringly tailored silhouette — without looking predictable or clichéd. It will whisper rather than scream its functionality.

It is not perfect: it does not, in the cheaper stores, always come as a complete kit like the traditional suit — tailored, a flattering silhouette — without looking predictable or clichéd. It will whisper rather than scream its functionality.

Besides, since we are living in times when, according to Demos, the independent think-tank much favoured by new Labour, 40 per cent of women believe that they are "naturally superior to men", women will shortly outnumber men in the workforce and Britain "is becoming increasingly shaped by feminine values". It seems only right that the armour that takes us to this new Utopia should adapt accordingly.

The secret suit is, in short, a more subtle, intelligent and thoughtful solution to the old work wear that we've come to shun. And so, by association, any



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Jo Hansford, above, says that Camilla Parker Bowles, whose hair she has tended for the past 15 years, is secretly chuffed that the press has finally decided to cast her in a more attractive light

Camilla's secret weapon

Like many public figures, Mrs Parker Bowles relies on Jo Hansford to avoid bad hair days. Interview by Lisa Armstrong

Jo Hansford is used to being thanked profusely by customers. She has this satisfied curl of a smile that actually reaches her eyes when they tell her how going from peroxide to strawberry blonde, mouse to auburn, blonde to brunette, has changed their lives.

It happened the other week when a dyed-chestnut Rachel Hunter, aka Mrs Rod Stewart, spent a day in the Mayfair salon while Hansford battled for eight hours with the sorry results of Mrs Stewart's last encounter with a Los Angeles stylist.

Happily, they managed to return it to its prelapsarian blonde, and Hunter called Hansford the next day to tell her that her children had got the flag out. "They were so pleased to have their Mummy back," says Hansford. "They didn't recognise her while she was dark."

This is the lot of today's top hair colourists: one part technician, two parts shrink, six parts regular guest on daytime television and 140 parts demigod. There is a world

where customers are always clients, where private jets appear from nowhere, with messages inscribed with one poignant little word — "Help" — and where presents from grateful clients are ubiquitous. (Already one of Hansford's protégés in her Mayfair salon has informed his ladies that instead of Gucci knick-knacks this Christmas, he would prefer Hermès.)

The top colourists, of whom Hansford is undoubtedly one, have mythologically long waiting lists; great sprawling lines that criss-cross the globe — two of Hansford's clients fly in regularly from Australia. Natasha McElhone, the co-star of the film *Ronin*, is a devotee of her salon. "It's a question of trust," says Hansford. "You can grow a bad haircut out in six months but colour can take four years."

She has worked Rachel Hunteresque wonders with



Camilla Parker Bowles

many of the public figures of our times, wading in with a tint-loaded spatula where lesser colourists would run a mile. She transformed David Hemmings' mouse into blond for *Blowup*, ensured that the boot-black locks of Del Boy became a plausibly dignified grey when David Jason started playing Inspector Frost, and took Richard Burton from a nasty Hollywood brown to silvery blond when he was cast in the role of Churchill.

"Now that was complicated," she says. "It took several trips to the Chatsworth set. Conditions were so primitive that Richard had to sit on the loo and rest his head on my stomach, which was eight-and-a-half months pregnant, because there was nowhere else that we could work."

When Vidal Sassoon, when she was then working, banned Christine Keeler from the premises, it was Hansford who took pity on her foxy brunette flick-ups by tinting her at home. "She was a nice girl, a lot of fun, and when you think how today the more notorious you are the more fuss gets made of you, it hardly seems fair that Christine couldn't come into the salon."

And it is Hansford who, for the past 15 years, has tended Camilla Parker Bowles's surprisingly glamorous blonde tresses, which have, as the photographs from the Prince of Wales's birthday celebrations at Highgrove reveal, blossomed spectacularly of late.

She, too, according to Hansford, is lots of fun. "We share a passion for gardening and our children are the same age, so we talk about that — but she's very private, not at all a bleeding heart."

She cannot be more discreet than Hansford herself. Other than noting that Mrs Parker Bowles is secretly chuffed that the press has finally decided to cast her in a more attractive light (although the funny thing is that she always likes dressing up. It's just that until recently they always chose bad pictures of her on a horse, and you're hardly going to wear a tiara and a ballgown when you're riding to hounds), she

will not be drawn. "You're only as good as your last cut and colour," she notes sagely. And, she might have added, as your last celebrity client list.

In the face of so much human folly, it's a miracle that she remains so ebullient, especially given the cut-throat nature of her work. It is not just the clients weeping over the telephone from the South of France because the on-set hairdresser has messed up their Titian tint, but other hairdressers who can make life what Hansford jauntily describes "a bloodbath."

Her career is ripe for mini-serialisation. After 15 years at Vidal Sassoon, she set up with Daniel Galvin as a junior partner, and for 13 years the two ruled the world of colour (Mrs Parker Bowles was a client then too, but had to stop going there when the Princess of Wales began patronising the place). Then came the fallout: a near court case and bad feelings all round. For two years she had to hire a chair in a friend's salon and wait for the exodus of loyal clients who eventually tracked her down.

Until she was 16 she had never been inside a hairdresser's. What she really wanted was to be a make-up artist. So much so that her mother wrote into *Just the Job*, a popular television show on the now defunct Rediffusion network.

Part of the prize for appearing on the show was an apprenticeship, but because Hansford was too young to take up the position, she filled in for a while at Martin Douglas's, a fashionable salon in Mayfair. Like the trouser she is, she slogged in on the train from Middlesex, swept the floors and observed the exotic swirl of clients. Then, after two weeks, she discovered the tinting room.

Six years ago she opened her own salon in Mayfair and the overheads were horrendous — "but you have to do these things properly". After the first nerve-racking year the business took off, with Jo Hansford products in chemist's shops, a teaching academy due to open next year, seminars in Japan, makeovers on television. She is part of the holy trinity — up there with Nicky (Clarke) and Charles (Worthington) — the first woman hairdresser on her way to being a household name.

To get there she has worked non-stop. When her two children were born, she took three weeks off for each. "Clients are lovely, but can be deeply selfish," she says cheerfully. "They're thrilled that you're pregnant, as long as you can fit their roots in." The workaholicism doesn't seem to have affected her relationship with ei-

ther of her children. Her daughter Joanna is, she says, her soulmate. The only time things got fraught was when Joanna returned from Australia with "the worst dye job I've ever seen. I couldn't believe she'd paid money for it."

Although she frets that hair-dressing is a young person's game, she shows no signs of snipper's fatigue (she refuses to discuss her age: "If you're

good at history, you can work it out"). It does not worry her that she is just as likely to think of clients in terms of their number (6.4 for mahogany) as their names. Or that she cannot watch American dramas without becoming cross about the lack of continuity in the protagonists' highlights.

And she wouldn't change anything. "When I started you had three choices — peroxide, red or brunette. Now most women colour their hair — you can do anything, besides, what other job allows you to talk to people about everything and make them happy?"

Designs on Hollywood



FOR years the film industry's antipathy to fashion plotlines rivalled its superstitions about animals and children. Yet lately all that seems to have changed. Of all the projects doing the Hollywood rounds — from Isaac Mizrahi's cartoon book of *Supermodels* to Douglas Keefe's docu-drama of Polly Mellen, the fashion director of *Allure* magazine — perhaps the least likely is the autobiography of Simon Doonan, the legendary window-dresser at Barney's in New York.

Small, camp and talented, Doonan hopes that someone slim and diminutive will be chosen to play him, "perhaps Helen Hunt", he says wickily. With the demise of the supermodel, fashion needs new stars. But massaging window-dressers and fashion editors' egos any further could turn us into a public health hazard.

THE Moët et Chandon-sponsored gala last Tuesday at the V&A in honour of Vivienne Westwood drew the now mandatory eclectic guest list. Apparently no event is complete these days without a politician



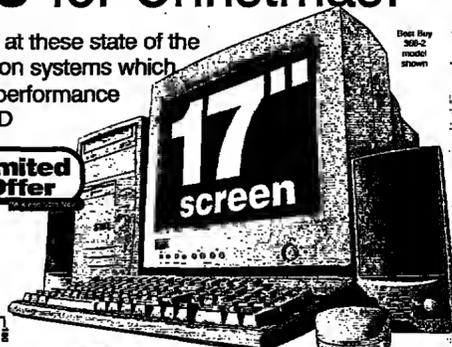
even wider than normal. She's far from being the only designer in this situation, but it still doesn't mean it makes sense.

HILLARY CLINTON has been anointed a fashion winner (via December's issue of *American Vogue*) after years of being pilloried for her looks. It seems futile to mutter about First Wives being taken on their own merits, yet there does seem to be an unhealthy pattern taking shape here (see Winifred, Oprah; Parker Bowles, Camilla; Diana, Princess of Wales, et al for more evidence). The truth is that Hillary Clinton has always had her fashion moments, but with the cult of the victim, a *souppon* of public pain has become the chicest new accessory and no public figure can be completely attractive without it.

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The RSC is making child's play of Stratford for the first time in 30 years, writes Heather Neill



Two actors in one suit: Patrice Naiambana is Aslan and Sevan Stephan his understudy for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* whose author, C.S. Lewis, was born 100 years ago this week

Off to Narnia-upon-Avon

Adrian Noble is in his element, hurrying excitedly from the set model for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to costume drawings of the awe-inspiring lion Aslan and Mr Tumnus the Fawn pinned on the wall of the rehearsal room in southwest London. The designs promise to be magical: there is a country house backdrop, a wardrobe, of course, and a glittering wintry Narnia with Mr Tumnus's house, the Beavers' lodge and a courtyard full of statues —

animals turned to stone by the wicked White Witch. Aslan is commanding and upright, the Witch icy, Father Christmas rubicund. There will be some spectacular effects, but, says Noble: "We can't afford to spend an arm and a leg on the production. So we've thrown imagination at it."

It is 100 years on Sunday since the birth of C.S. Lewis, the author of the Narnia books, childhood favourites of politicians and former Spice Girls. And, despite unfriendly articles by writers such as the children's author Philip Pullman and Lewis's biographer, A.N. Wilson (who claims that Lewis's evangelism caused him to become an atheist), they remain bestsellers.

Adrian Mitchell's new adaptation of Lewis's best-known title will be the first children's show in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Stratford repertoire for 30 years. It will run in tandem with *The Winter's Tale*, using the same company of 30 actors, except that Antony Sher, who plays both the jealous king, Leontes, and the roguish Autolycus, has no role in Narnia.

The pairing of the plays is part of Noble's long-term policy as artistic director to attract new audiences to RSC productions. He has already reduced the length of the company's London season at the Barbican, introduced differentiated

winter and summer seasons at Stratford, increased touring and established a regular annual residency in Plymouth, while the well-established Newcastle residency has been moved from spring to autumn. All of this has been criticised on financial grounds. Indeed, there have been times in recent years when media coverage has suggested that the RSC could not put a foot right.

Noble seems genuinely positive, however. Change takes time to bear fruit, he says, citing Peter Hall's first three years as artistic director in the early 1960s: "The critics prophesied disaster until *The Wars of the Roses* came along in 1963." And Noble already feels vindicated. "Huge numbers" are, he says, visiting RSC productions for the first time — company publicity claims this one will bring in 40,000 of them. Booking percentages for the residencies in Plymouth and Newcastle are in "the high nineties" and, after breaking box-office records in the regions, the touring production of *Richard III*, with Robert Lindsay as the hunchback, is to open at the Savoy in London in the new year.

Furthermore, Noble says, "the new model allows a flexibility of approach which has enabled us to set up this mini-ensemble for the two plays. It's at the heart of what we do." Rehearsals for *The Winter's Tale* are going on in the same building, with actors moving regularly between Bohemia and Narnia. Noble relishes the bustle. "I met one guy in the loo who said he'd got six different rehearsals calls that morning" — fittings, verse-speaking, fight or voice workshops as well as acting. He thinks the actors, a mixture of new young performers, regulars and RSC heavyweights such as Estelle Kohler (the Witch), find the cross-fertilisation enriching.

Unlike so many of the great and good, Noble was not brought up on Narnia. He read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* as an adult but, when he heard that the rights to *Lion* had become available, he "went into battle" for them — a suitably heroic turn of phrase. He says having two children of his own he

is married to the actress Joanne Pearce gave him an added incentive, even though, at four and two, they are a bit young to appreciate his efforts. Noble has no problem with the Christian allegory to be found in *Lion* which so divides modern adult commentators. "We deal with it in so much as Lewis deals with it in the book: it will not occur to a lot of people to others it resounds all through. We don't emphasise and don't disguise it."

In any case, Aslan is a very un-Anglican Jesus. He's wild and dangerous. He kills. The shepherd of the sheep is not the first thing you think of. Similarly, complaints about the roles afforded the girls, Susan and Lucy, are no stumbling block: "Peter is a hero of *The Eagle* comic, but Lucy is entrusted with a dagger as well as a healing cordial and Susan has a bow and arrows."

The four children are evacuees and the Second World War provides a suitable backdrop for the action, "not in an obvious way, but in a useful one," says Noble. "The basic idea, of course, is the battle between good and evil on a world scale and it provides a strong source of imagery: the tyranny of the Witch, with the wolf, Maugrim, as her head of Gestapo-like secret police; the wrecking of Mr Tumnus's house; the terrorising of the populace, where anyone might be an informer — even, in Narnia, the trees."

We have talked through his lunchbreak, so he dashes off to grab a sandwich. The words "synergy" and "harmony" crop up in his parting shots as he prepares to swap notes on progress with other members of the crew. As you watch Noble at work, a character from another children's classic leaps to mind: the optimistic, over-energetic Tigger.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is in preview from tomorrow at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford (01799 245623); *The Winter's Tale* is in preview from Dec 10



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He still produces these mixtures to the loud delight of his fans. Unfortunately, with age has come a smoothing-down of the contrasts, an ironing-out of the edginess into a porridge of bland monotony. *Roda*, a solo eliciting Elkins's only stage appearance, had the virtue of shortness (four minutes) and of arriving first on the programme, before we could become jaded. Elkins, in a pool of light, blended the parabolic combat kicks of Brazilian capoeira with liquid swivels and vertical tricks, arms juggling

Diluted by the blender

DANCE
Doug Elkins
Queen Elizabeth Hall

invisible balls or swatting imaginary insects. Danced with Elkins's powerful fluency and set to Antonio Carlos Jobim's catchy Brazilian rhythms, the piece had an engrossing continuum. But then came two company pieces and 70 more minutes of much the same. The choreography of *Bipolarbear NOS* looked as if the food processor had been switched on too long, reducing the different components to a puree. As a result, al-

though the eight dancers worked hard, they made little impact, not helped by the synthesized yards of Evren Celim's boring score. It took a real effort of will to look for particularities in this wash: I noted changes of lighting, that one man was aggressive and that another couple flipped over each other's backs.

But I had long lost interest and by the time *Narcotopic Lovers* came I wanted to go home. Made in 1995, this piece belonged to Elkins's earlier, more colourful manner and was an improvement. A greater emphasis on ballet geometries meant the movement was less of a blur; well-defined architectural groupings helped to individualise the various sections, their differences pointed up by sound that veered wildly from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* to a Lenny Bruce monologue. But it was too late and anyway it wasn't good enough. I hope Elkins will take a serious look at what it takes to effect the transition from promising young choreographer to middle-aged must-see.
NADINE MEISNER

EN O
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Sunday Telegraph

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The Missions to Seamen

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Master of the organ

This was a recital with a difference, but then Simon Preston has always been an organist with a difference...

CONCERT

Simon Preston 60th Birthday Smith Square

It is hard to believe how long Preston has been on the scene, there is a huge discography featuring him as both organist and conductor to prove it...

With typical generosity, Preston shared the programme with the virtuoso trumpeter Hakan Hardenberger...

JOHN ALLISON



Donald Maxwell (Don Perlimpin) and Patricia Rozario (Belisa) in the premiere of Simon Hol's opera by Opera North

What's the point?

The Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival is this year celebrating its 21st birthday. That is an extraordinary achievement...

the nearness of this being the poet's centenary, it was predictable that he should have been chosen to set one of his plays...

Opera North's production of Punch and Judy is on show, and Tan Dun's Marco Polo has been given in concert form...

Holt's musical language is mainstream Modernist: spiky, angular, uncompromisingly complex...

Opera North's production of Punch and Judy is on show, and Tan Dun's Marco Polo has been given in concert form...

Welcome to the melody machine

The release of a retrospective album often leaves a band at a career crossroads. With a glorious past in the rear view mirror...

POP Del Amitri Astoria, WI

their lowest singles placing since they made the grade in 1990, and although the Del-boys began this set with some well-received album material...

So out they poured, from Always The Last To Know to Kiss This Thing Goodbye 100 minutes later...

PAUL SEXTON

Love at first sight

CYNICS may argue that as the son of the late jazz trumpeter Don Cherry, and brother of the hip-hop starlet Neneh...

POP Eagle-Eye Cherry Olympia, Dublin

above and beyond the call of duty.

While such tactics could be interpreted as an unavoidable given that Cherry has only one album's worth of material at his disposal...

Cherry is at his most effective when he stays within the pop mainframe, as he does with his current hit, Falling In Love Again...

NICK KELLY

This week in THE TIMES



Adultery among friends Imogen Stubbs in Pinter's Betrayal at the Lyttelton OPENS: Tomorrow REVIEW: Wednesday



William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet makes its UK debut at Sadler's Wells OPENS: Tomorrow REVIEW: Thursday



George Clooney goes on the run in the offbeat crime caper Out of Sight RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



At the Barbican the grand old man of American music, Elliott Carter, is 90 CONCERT: Saturday REVIEW: Next week

PLUS: Björk is joined by the Brothers Quartet in Birmingham on Friday

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NEWS

New European Way launched

A manifesto for a socialist Europe with more harmonised taxes and more closely shared economic policies...

The programme for "The New European Way - Economic Reform in the Framework of Monetary Union" calls itself a "set of common rules for the economic and social wellbeing of European citizens"

Drug testing at Ministry of Defence

Civil servants at the Ministry of Defence are set to become the first Whitehall officials to face compulsory drugs tests.

Kidnap ordeal over

A businessman who was cleared of murder last month was freed yesterday after a 30-hour kidnap ordeal during which he was tortured by an armed gang demanding £100,000 ransom

Arctic thaw fears

Global warming may have triggered the unprecedented melting of sea ice in the Arctic, which has left the remaining ice up to a third thinner than it was 20 years ago

A Winslet wedding

Kate Winslet and Jim Threapleton were married yesterday at a parish church in front of coachloads of guests.

Murder memorial

A roadside memorial was erected to mark the last sighting of a young woman suspected of falling prey to a serial killer roaming Ireland's east coast.

Barney bashing

Barney the dinosaur, whose first British stage tour is attracting huge audiences, is the target of an Internet grudge campaign from parents infuriated by his saccharine antics

Stasi files appeal

The new German Government has asked the United States to return a trove of espionage files, including the identity of thousands of Western agents.

Fertility fight

A form of egg donation that has led to the birth of 150 babies in Britain may be outlawed this week by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

Indonesia rampage

Indonesian troops last night struggled to maintain order in Jakarta after a Muslim mob went on the rampage, setting fire to churches and beating Christians to death

Chinese top earnings

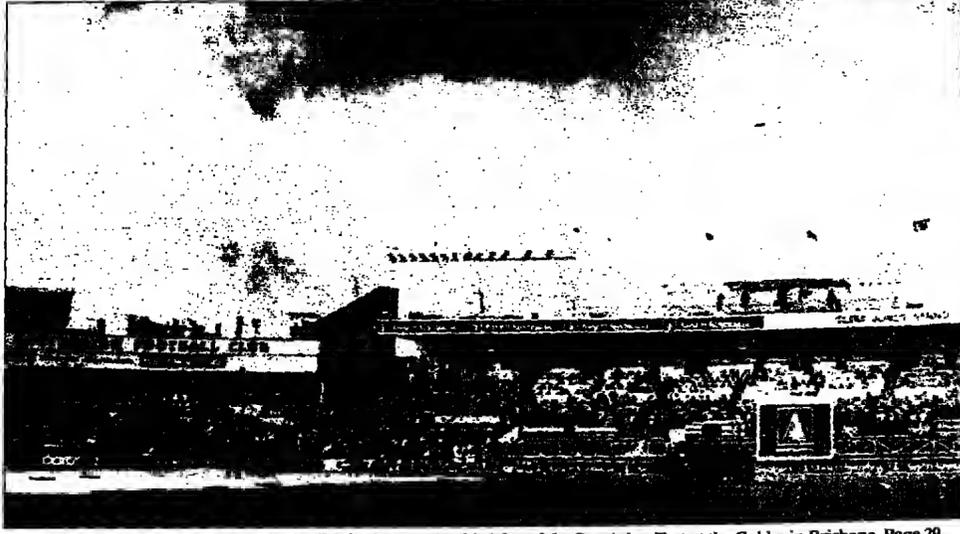
The Chinese in Britain have overtaken whites and African Asians in the earnings and employment league. Research shows that Chinese men have the highest average earnings and the lowest unemployment rate of any ethnic group

Russians grieve

The funeral of Gafina Starovoi, the murdered reformist politician, which is to be held tomorrow near St Petersburg, will symbolise for many the desperate state of affairs in which their country approaches the millennium

Fresh French Casanova loves a row

Sex has replaced socialism and existentialism as the main talking point on Paris's Left Bank, with intellectuals locked in a row over Casanova's prowess and morals.



An electrical storm curtailed a solid English innings on the third day of the first Ashes Test at the Gabba in Brisbane. Page 29

BUSINESS

Hotel buyer to sell: Patriot American Hospitality, the aggressive US hotel investor, is considering a sale of its UK assets...

FEATURES

Party girls: Grace Bradberry looks at the Tories' inability to engage women in top ranks...

ARTS

Child's play: For the first time in 30 years, the Royal Shakespeare Company is presenting a children's show in Stratford...

SPORT

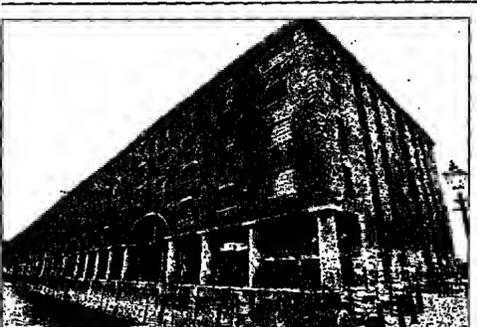
Football: Roy Hodgson, who was dismissed from Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, looks like the victim of a foolish, ill-considered, precipitate move...

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 9, 17, 22, 38, 49. Bonus: 47. Eight people shared Saturday's £25 million superdraw jackpot...

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES. ARTS: How museums and galleries are spearheading Liverpool's cultural renaissance. LAW: A legal aid ruling will make mediation more popular.



THE PAPERS

There is a great deal of talk about solidarity between the social democratic leaders of Europe - Gerhard Schroeder in Germany, Massimo D'Alema in Italy, Lionel Jospin in France and Tony Blair in Britain.

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL: The whole debate about the Lords is changed, creating problems not only for William Hague with his ill-judged threat of continued defiance...

OBITUARIES

Captain Geoffrey Kirby, CBE, DSC and two Bars, wartime destroyer captain: John Charlton, publisher: Molly Bishop, portrait artist.

LETTERS

Tackling drugs in schools: moral basis for Conservatism; Freemasonry and judiciary; Internet and the family; preserving salmon stocks; passports for babies; banned music; recruitment advertising; working hours limit; wreaking havoc.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,956

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28. Includes clues for Across and Down.

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,955 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

AA INFORMATION

Table with latest road and weather conditions for UK, Ireland, and Europe. Columns include location, road number, and weather/traffic status.

Weather by Fax

Table listing weather forecast services by fax for various locations including London, New York, and Sydney.

World City Weather

Table providing weather forecasts for major world cities like London, New York, and Tokyo.

Motorway

Table listing motorway conditions by country, including road numbers and current status.

Car repairs by Fax

Table listing car repair services by fax for various locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

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FORECAST

General: SE England cold and dry with sunny spells. Northern and SW England, and Wales, mainly dry with sunny breaks. Central England cloudy with a spot of rain in Scotland and N Ireland, sunny spells and only the odd shower at first...

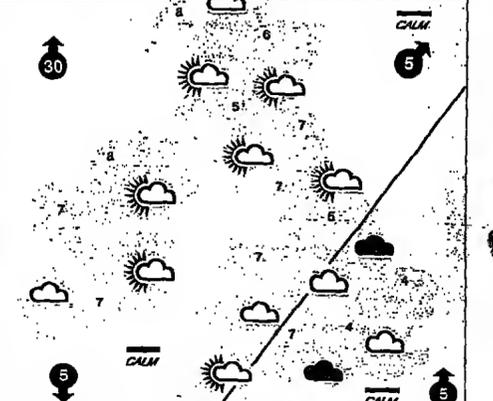
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover for various locations.

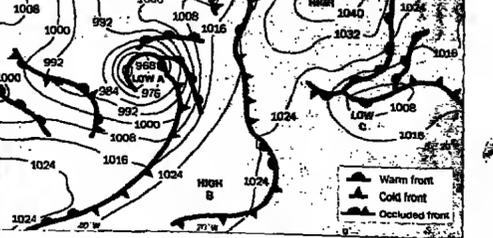
ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart from noon. Low A drifts NE, deepening initially before starting to fill. High B extends north and east with little change in central pressure. Low C fills as it drifts east.



HIGH TIDES

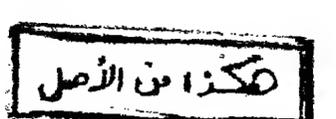
Table listing high tide times for various locations across the British Isles.

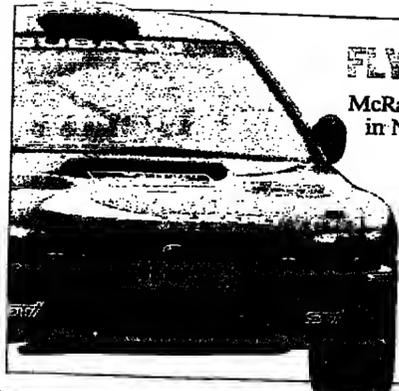
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing the highest and lowest temperatures recorded yesterday across different regions.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Rover true plan' and 'no. @demon' along with contact information for Demon Internet.

Advertisement for 'no. @demon' with contact number 0800 458 9666 and website Demon Internet.





FLYING START
McRae takes early lead in Network Q Rally
PAGE 29

PLUS
Rose facing uphill climb in Spain
PAGE 28

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



MASTER BUTCHER
Opening batsman cuts loose for England
PAGE 29

SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED
England given the runaround in World Cup qualifier
PAGE 37



TIMES SPORT 16 PAGES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

HODGSON FALLS FROM GRACE AT EWOOD PARK

Rovers could rue pressing panic button



Oliver Holt, football correspondent, says the departure of Roy Hodgson indicates that the map of English football excellence is being redrawn

ROY of the Rovers was never meant to finish like this, but then Blackburn has got a harder ring to it than Melchester and Roy Race never had Jack Walker to contend with. The original Roy of the Rovers had loyal men with long sideburns such as Blackie Gray by his side, too. Roy Hodgson, increasingly, seemed to be undermined by players who belonged to a harsher, more financially driven world than was ever glimpsed in the cartoon strips.

The end came early on Saturday evening, when Walker appears to have told Hodgson that his services were no longer required in the corner of Lancashire for which he had swapped Milan. Several of the Blackburn players had speculated that there would be dire consequences if they lost at home to Southampton, but they still seemed shocked when they were confronted with the reality.

It was only a few months ago that Hodgson seemed a good bet to be the next England manager, but his fortunes have declined faster than those of Glenn Hoddle. A good communicator, a clever tactician and a skilful manager, the speed of his de-

mise has been almost unparalleled. Perhaps we should not be surprised. It is that time of year, after all, when winter takes hold and the four divisions of English football turn into killing fields littered with managerial casualties. Roy Evans, one of those who has already been mentioned as a candidate for the vacancy at Blackburn, went 11 days ago. On Saturday, it was Hodgson's turn.

Even in these days of the sweating, trembling fear of relegation and the drastic financial losses that it brings, Blackburn's parting with Hodgson reeks of panic. It is ill-considered, foolishly precipitous. The 2-0 defeat to Southampton may have left them rooted to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, but they will

have to search far and wide to secure a more able coach than the man they have just lost. When Hodgson arrived at Ewood Park 18 months ago, he was a breath of fresh air. His methods impressed all those who worked with him, to the extent that some Blackburn players had it written into their contracts that they would stay only as long as he did. He may have begun to lose the dressing-room in recent weeks, but there is not likely to be any shortage of offers from elsewhere.

Perhaps Blackburn will discover sooner than they would have done that their problem lay not in the ability of Hodgson but in the changing topography of English football and, in particular, the increasing difficulties that the influx of leading foreign players poses for a club of Blackburn's reputation and location.

Satisfying wage demands may not have been a primary issue. Walker has bankrolled the club before and it is hard to believe that his personal fortune, allied to the money that the club garners from the Premiership's television deal with BSkyB, would not turn the heads of even the most lavishly paid superstars.

Where Blackburn were beginning to suffer was that the cream of foreign superstars flooding into England demand more than just £25,000 a week. They can get that at a range of clubs so they can afford to be picky and, increasingly, that means not just a team with a good shot at the title but that old estate agents' mantra: location, location, location.

London holds the whip hand in that respect, of course. Some English players, perhaps, can appreciate the beauty of Clitheroe and the Pendle Hills — Chris Sutton walks his dogs on the moors there — but it is hard to see Marcel Desailly pulling on his Wellington boots and going for a stroll up hill and down dale.

Blackburn were already having to make do with the best of the rest, players such as Martin Dahlin, Stéphane Henchoz and Sébastien Perez, and team spirit was beginning to suffer. Tim Sherwood, the club captain, is openly agitating for a transfer and Sutton himself has grown concerned about the club's failure to stop the haemorrhage of top-class talent to greener pastures.

Hodgson's departure has merely highlighted the fact that we are beginning to see a radical redrawing of the map of English football excellence. There may be one or two outposts of glamour away from



Blackburn Rovers may be bottom of the Premiership, but they will struggle to find another coach as able as Hodgson, the latest high-profile casualty

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'As he was driven through the gates, the table told Hodgson he was leaving behind the worst team in the league'
Match report, page 30

BLACKBURN ROVERS UNDER HODGSON

(Premiership)	P	W	O	L	F	A	PTS
1997-98	38	16	10	12	57	52	58
1998-99	14	2	3	9	14	22	9
TOTAL	52	18	13	21	71	74	67

TRANSFERS OUT		TRANSFERS IN	
H Berg (Man Utd)	£5m	K Davies (Southampton)	£7.5m
G Le Saux (Chelsea)	£5m	C Doherty (Derby Co)	£5.25m
C Hendry (Rangers)	£4m	N Blake (Bolton Wanderers)	£4.25m
I Pearson (West Ham Utd)	£2.2m	S Perez (Basle)	£3m
C Coleman (Fulham)	£2.2m	S Henchoz (Hamburg)	£3m
S Given (Newcastle Utd)	£1.5m	M Dahlin (AS Roma)	£2.5m
S Ripley (Southampton)	£1.5m	C Davidson (St Johnstone)	£1.75m
L Bohinen (Derby Co)	£1.45m	J Filan (Coventry)	£1.75m
P Warhurst (Crystal Palace)	£1.25m	J Corbett (Gillingham)	£900,000
G Farlow (Leicester City)	£1.1m	S Bywater (Rochdale)	£900,000
J Beattie (Southampton)	£1m	T Pedersen (St Pauli)	£900,000
P Pedersen (Strasbourg)	£900,000	A Fattis (Nottingham For)	£900,000
M Holmes (Charlton Ath)	£250,000	O Paacock (Newcastle Utd)	Free
P Valery (Basle)	£200,000	A Anderson (Middlesbrough)	Free
T Pedersen (Frankfurt)	Undisclosed	P Valery (Basle)	Free
N Marker (Sheffield Utd)	Free		
TOTAL	£27,430,000	TOTAL	£29,700,000

SENDINGS OFF (no competitions)			
1997-98			
P Valery (2nd booking)	A v Tottenham Sep 20	S Perez (2nd booking)	H v Chelsea Sep 21
J Wilson (violent conduct)	A v Coventry Sep 28	M Dahlin (violent conduct)	A v Everton Sep 28
C Sutton (2nd booking)	A v Man Utd Nov 30	J Wilson (2nd booking)	A v Lyons Sep 29
K Gotsche (violent conduct)	A v West Ham Feb 14	C Sutton (serious foul play)	H v Arsenal Oct 25
J Wilson (2nd booking)	A v Bolton Apr 11	T Sherwood (violent conduct)	A v Man Utd Nov 14
T Flowers (foul or abusive language)	A v Coventry May 2		

PREMIERSHIP RECORD				
K Dalglish	K Dalglish	K Dalglish	R Hartford/T Paries	R Hodgson
1993-4 2nd	1994-5 1st	1995-6 7th	1996-7 23th	1997-8 8th



Walker celebrates winning the championship in 1995

GOLF: TEENAGER HAS GROUND TO MAKE UP GOING INTO THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL

Unpredictable Rose left with uphill task

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN SAN ROQUE

IT IS clear, now that he has been a professional for four months, that when Justin Rose is put fully under pressure and the nerves of many of his followers are stretched almost to their limits, he has exceptional competitive instincts that enable him to produce a round of golf that really matters. As he has demonstrated this characteristic three times since he turned professional last July, Rose appears to be able to do this more often than most of his peers.

It is also noticeable that before, or after, one such exceptional round, Rose is prone to lose concentration and make

Sit on the 18th at Sotogrande had rounded off his fourth round. Yesterday, Rose was level to the turn before notching up four bogeys and two birdies on the back nine. He shook his head after his round, puzzled as to what had gone wrong. "I hit good putts which didn't go in, but to be honest I didn't give myself a lot of chances," he said. "I need a 69 or better tomorrow."

In contrast, Henrik Nyström can do little wrong. Nyström, a 29-year-old from Sweden, is 11 under par and leads the field by four strokes. It would take an astonishing collapse for him not to be one of the leading 35 players tonight.

Nick Faldo was as good as his word on Sunday when he led England to its first World Cup of Golf team title at the 44th attempt. Faldo had promised to make amends for England never having won the title since the competition started in 1954. His experience took him and David Carter, his young compatriot, to a two-stroke win at Gulf Harbour.

mistakes. Perhaps this trait will fade away as he leaves adolescence and acquires more competitive experience. He is only 18, after all.

Rose demonstrated this fickleness in the fifth round of the European Tour qualifying school yesterday after he had produced some fireworks to beat the 72-hole cut the previous afternoon. Where Rose had been so focused and determined in his fourth round, he was prone to unforced errors in his fifth, his 74 being studded with poor iron strokes and the odd poor putt. Despite this, he has moved up from 58th to 51st in his attempt to finish among the top 35 players and win the card that will give him entry to the European Tour next year.

An heroic 50-yard pitch and

His nearest chasers include Ross Drummond, who will be 42 on Sunday and seems certain to celebrate his birthday having regained his playing rights on the European Tour, and Marcello Santi, of Italy. Among scores such as these, someone who is ten over par would seem to be nothing to write home about, but for Simon Hurley that score represented a triumph. The injuries to his right arm that prevented him from playing more than a few rounds of golf in the past 24 months reached to the intensive amount of golf Hurley has subjected them to recently and caused him so much pain that he withdrew last night.

Hurley felt that his fourth round had been heroic because, over the last nine holes, he took his right hand off the club after impact on almost every shot. He stood on the 12th tee knowing that he had to play the remaining seven holes in no worse than one over par and he did so. An 82 yesterday was another triumph because, by then, he was playing almost completely one-handed.

"You are looking at a very happy man," Hurley said before he and Martin, his brother, began their return



Rose, of England, plays out of the sand at the 17th hole during his topsy-turvy fifth round at the San Roque golf club in Spain yesterday

journey to Bristol. "What is making me feel good is the knowledge that before my arm started to hurt, I was beating nearly everyone here," Hurley, who was six under par after two rounds, said. "That means I can play this game

well and it bodes well for me next season."

Wales has provided a disproportionate number of Amateur champions since the Seventies, an indication of how successful the Welsh Golf Union has been in identifying

young talent and bringing those players on quickly. Perhaps this is why six of the eight Welshmen who arrived here last week survived to the last two rounds.

At two under par, Stephen Dodd, the 1999 Amateur champion,

is the best of their bunch. He is thirteenth overall and followed by Neil Roderick, Mark Pilkington, who is only 20, and Bradley Dredge, the runner-up in the 1992 Amateur championship. These three are all one over par and tied for 27th.

Keith Jones and Andrew Barnett are both eight over par. Only David Park, a Walker Cup player in 1997, and Simon Wilkinson failed to reach the last two rounds.

Scores, page 40

Westwood proves to be big in Japan

LEE WESTWOOD was fighting his game all week, but the young Englishman's greatest asset is that he never fights himself and he won the Dunlop Phoenix tournament, Japan's most lucrative event, in typically serene fashion in Miyazaki yesterday.

On a sunny day beside the sea, when a swirling breeze and some tough pin positions made birdies hard to come by, a round of 70, one under par, was good enough to keep Westwood out in front. He had led from the halfway stage. He finished on 271, 13 under par, three shots ahead of Darren Clarke, whose putting let him down, and four ahead of Joe Ozald.

It was Westwood's second victory in as many weeks and his seventh of a season that is not yet finished. Next week, the 25-year-old from Workop flies to

Patricia Davies finds a Briton aiming higher than being the world No 1

South Africa for the Million Dollar Challenge at Sun City.

Westwood's latest Japanese jaunt, which takes his tally of victories here to four in three years, has netted him 72 million yen. "It sounds like a lot," he smiled and it is. It converts to £360,000 and takes his on-course earnings for the season to roughly £1.5 million.

"Money is not a driving force with me," Westwood said. "It's never, ever an issue. Today on the golf course is what drives me on. Winning is what it's all about and I always try my hardest to win."

Easy-going though he is, he is bound-

lessly ambitious. Not long ago, Westwood, then ranked No 9 in the world, remarked that wanting to be world No 1 was not that much of an ambition. "What do you do when you've achieved it?" he asked. "There's no good getting there and just stopping. I'd like to win 100 tournaments and as many majors as I can." The Dunlop Phoenix was win No 13 and he has yet to win a major, so he will be busy for a few years yet.

At least Westwood seems to have mastered the knack of winning when not playing his best. "Some parts of my game were at 50 per cent this week," he

said, "although it's difficult to see how my short game could have been better and my mental attitude was as good as it's ever been. I was not hitting the ball well on the range, but on the 1st tee my mind was set on what I wanted to do, which was to shoot as low as I could."

His main challenger yesterday was Clarke, who closed to within a shot with a birdie four at the 7th, but missed a 12ft uphill birdie putt at the next to draw level. It proved to be a crucial miss because Westwood pulled away with birdie threes at the 9th and 10th. He pulled his second shot into the tree at the front left of the green and the ball ricocheted to safety on the right edge of the green. "The putt was always in," Westwood grinned as he gave a graphic description. "You've got to take advantage of your luck."



Westwood enjoys his fourth win in Japan in three years

Thanks, Martina!

At the Chase Championships of New York, as on all tennis courts the world over, OMEGA's ambassador is more than ever the world's top women's tennis player in the heart of the public!

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Campbell sees red at the antics of Hann

By PHIL YATES

QUINTEN HANN, talented and brash in equal measure, exhibited the acceptably petulant side of his nature during a 9-6 defeat by Marcus Campbell in the second round of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Bournemouth yesterday.

Campbell, who white-washed Stephen Hendry 9-0 in the previous round, is an universally popular individual. He would never consider criticising an opponent unless it was well merited.

"Quinten's diabolical. I'm afraid," Campbell said. "He's temperament and attitude are an absolute disgrace. I'm a professional sportsman who conducts himself in a proper way, but he's got bad manners at the table."

Campbell's forthright remarks were inspired by behaviour that qualified as ungentlemanly in anyone's language. "I think he was trying to play mind games, but I am too long in the tooth to let anything like that affect me," he said.

Hann, a peroxide blond who had several brushes with the amateur authorities in his native Australia before turning professional three years ago, conceded the fifth frame with five reds remaining, even though he only trailed 44-0.

More bizarrely — and in Campbell's opinion, rudely — Hann conceded the eighth frame when leading 54-47. With Campbell ideally positioned on the green and the remaining colours on or just off their spots, Hann surprisingly stood up and shook hands, clearly resigned to a

clearance. "I wasn't about to complain, but it was stupid," Campbell said. "We'd already had a few kicks out there and under pressure anything could have happened. He doesn't seem to be able to take his medicine when he's sitting in his chair."

Hann showed less inclination to prematurely throw in the towel on the resumption.

Results.....40

but the earlier damage proved to be irreparable. Campbell, who completed victory with an unfinished run of 60 when Hann once again conceded at an inappropriate juncture, now meets Steve Davis in the last 16. "At least I'm playing a gentleman now," he said.

Hann was unrepentant. "I don't think conceding is a big deal," he said. "I definitely



White cash incentives

IN BRIEF

Rolph takes an early lead in World Cup

■ SWIMMING: Susan Rolph, of Newcastle, leads two categories of the World Cup after fast short-course times at the first round in Rio de Janeiro. Rolph's victories over Yana Klochkova, of Ukraine, in the 100 metres and 200 metres medley gave her an excellent start to the 1998-99 series, though there is a long way to go, the cup having been extended to 12 rounds.

In the sprint freestyle group, Rolph shares the lead with Katrin Meissner, of Germany, who narrowly beat the Briton in the 50 metres. However, the order was reversed in the 100 metres, the event which catapulted Rolph into the world's fastest eight when she won the Commonwealth Games title in Malaysia in September in a record time.

Cronje close to victory

■ CRICKET: Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, hit an unbeaten 147 off 141 balls yesterday to set up the prospect of a remarkable win for Free State over the West Indies. Cronje helped his side to score 272 runs during the final session of the penultimate day, leaving his side just 26 runs short of the victory target of 438. Free State, all out for 67 in their first innings, will resume at 412 for eight today. The West Indies had earlier slumped from 112 for two overnight to 188 all out. The South Africa selectors have recalled Paul Symcox, the veteran off spinner, to a 12-man squad for the first Test, which begins on Thursday.

Personal best

■ SKIING: Emma Carriek-Anderson, Great Britain's leading woman skier, achieved the finest performance of her career by finishing fourteenth in the opening run of the women's World Cup slalom in Utah on Saturday. Despite failing in the afternoon run, Carriek-Anderson's performance justified her decision to join the Finland team for training instead of working by herself. "I had a second run in the world championships two years ago, but never in the World Cup, so it is really exciting," she said. Urška Hrovat, of Slovenia, came first, with Sabine Eggar, of Austria, second.

New pair selected

■ NETBALL: Christine Maskell and Ann Marie Muller are the only uncapped players included in the 15-strong England training party announced after the senior trials at Loughborough University (Cathy Harris writes). The squad includes ten members of the Great Britain team that won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games, Vicki Diss, Judith Mann and Debbie Jones were ruled out because of injury. As part of their build-up for the world championship in September, Euzeland will play Wales on January 30.

Australia
toil as
England
stand firm

هكذا من الأصل

Resilient touring team fight fire with fire despite the cheap dismissals of Atherton and Stewart

Australia toil as England stand firm

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE (third day of five): England, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 186 runs behind Australia... FATE and circumstance had stacked up so dauntingly against England over the first two days in Brisbane that it would have been no great surprise to see them crumble yesterday.

Simon Barnes... Facing a total of 485 that they knew should have been 200 fewer, England batted as if intent on purging the bad memories, past and present.

This is such a true Test pitch that to be bowled out below 300 would have rated an embarrassment. England, of course, have suffered plenty of those in a decade of Ashes subservience, but Butcher — with a good deal of help from his friends — declined to revisit the sins and omissions of old.

His second century in three Tests was a marvel of self-belief, for hitherto his tour had been a string of indignities. Struck on the head in Perth three weeks ago, then a victim of a training collision with Peter Such, he was a walking accident zone, with more stitches than he had scored runs.

Late in the day came another personal triumph. Graham Thorpe improved his already impressive record against Australia, batting without fuss or fella in his first Test innings.



Butcher, of England, acknowledges the applause of the crowd after completing his century against Australia at the Gabba yesterday

The last three Australian wickets added 120, Damien Fleming's unbeaten 71 being a bonus, and when Michael Atherton was out without scoring — squared up with a crooked bat and dismissed by Glenn McGrath for the tenth time in Tests — the ominous portents were all in place.

SCOREBOARD FROM BRISBANE

Table containing cricket scoreboards for Australia and England, including innings details, batsmen, bowlers, and scores.

Every opportunity — England rallied for at five runs an over for the first hour. Kasprovic replaced McGrath and, in his second over, found Hussain's inside edge to end a stand of 134 in 34 overs.

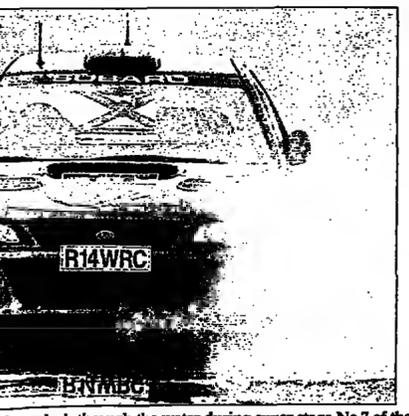
MOTOR RALLYING: FINN'S FIGHT FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CUT SHORT IN CRUEL AND BIZARRE FASHION AT MILLBROOK

Makinen's hopes slip swiftly into oblivion

Makinen: he arrived in Britain looking for a third consecutive world rallying title yet lasted only six stages and less than a morning. In a fraction of a second, millions of pounds' worth of investment and Makinen's career slid into oblivion.

Makinen found sympathy among drivers angry that they had not been warned about the oil slick when they arrived at Millbrook and concerned that concrete blocks lined the route.

Sainz was not one to glory in his rival's misfortune, though, and he, too, wanted this championship decided on the tracks and forest stages of this gruelling British rally and not by a freak incident.



Colin McRae, left, and Sainz splash through the water during super stage No 7 of the Rally of Great Britain at Silverstone yesterday. Photographs: Clive Mason/Allsport

Butcher opens eyes of his critics

FROM PAT GIBSON

ENGLAND'S cricketers have never had it so good. They have specialist coaches, a physiotherapist, a fitness trainer, a psychologist and all sorts of other people to cater for their every need.

Consider the case of Mark Butcher, whose century in his first Test in Australia yesterday went a long way towards convincing a lot of people in these parts that the Ashes series is going to be much more keenly contested than they had been led to believe.

Butcher could hardly have made a worse start to the tour. He ducked into his second ball in Perth and cut his right eye. He collided with Peter Such, his team-mate, while training in Adelaide, cutting his left eye.

His background also helped. His father, Alan, played in one Test for England, his uncle, Ian, and his brother, Gary, have both played county cricket and he knew all about Ken Barrington's famous quip.

Then there was his wife, Judy (nee Stewart), daughter of Micky and sister of Alec. "She's always good for keeping the spirits up," he said. "Saying things like 'What the hell are you doing, you're costing us money?' It tends to be a bit of a spur."

ATHLETICS Hemery waits on Wembley decision... BY DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT... Hemery's decision to retire is a surprise...

...takes an ear... World Cup... The England team has been selected...

Overall positions (after nine stages): 1. C McRae (GB), Subaru Impreza; 2. Sainz (Spain), Toyota Corolla; 3. G Sainz (Spain), Toyota Corolla; 4. M Gronholm (Fin), Toyota Corolla; 5. A Macias (GB), Subaru Impreza; 6. R. J. Kennerley (UK), Ford Escort; 7. B. J. Threlkeld (UK), Ford Escort; 8. R. Barris (USA), Mitsubishi; 9. G. de Mevius (Bel), Subaru Impreza; 10. S. Lindholm (Fin), Ford Escort; 11. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 12. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 13. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 14. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 15. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 16. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 17. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 18. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 19. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort; 20. J. J. O'Connell (UK), Ford Escort.

Redknapp fails to...

FA Carling Premiership: Top three all falter as Fowler rediscovers his goalscoring touch

Coventry fail to handle spirited display



MIDDLESBROUGH 2 COVENTRY CITY 0

By George Caftkin

THE scale of their ambition has seldom been doubted...



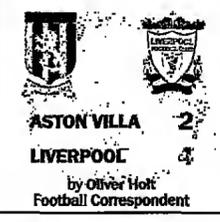
Fowler, the Liverpool striker, roars his delight after scoring one of his three goals against the league leaders at Villa Park on Saturday.

Gregory takes heart from fighting show

IT IS impossible to keep John Gregory down. Like Alex Ferguson, the Aston Villa manager seems to be even better in defeat than in victory.

They went down fighting, too, like Newcastle United under Kevin Keegan...

Collymore with an easy chance to get Villa back into the game five minutes before half-time...



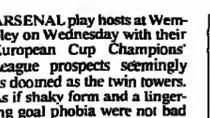
by Oliver Holt Football Correspondent



Richard scored second goal

ly in a team lacking prima donnas, but now boasting a core...

Sulky Arsenal display no stomach for battle

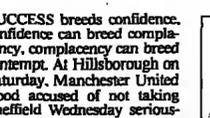


By Matt Dickinson

ARSENAL play hosts at Wembley on Wednesday with their European Cup Champions' League prospects seemingly as doomed as the twin towers.

ping more points against non-contenders for the championship... While the weakness of Arsenal players can be dismissed as a blip...

Strolling United pay for smug approach

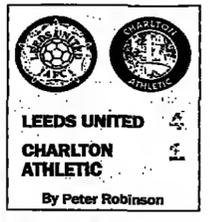


By Russell Kempson

SUCCESS breeds confidence. Confidence can breed complacency, complacency can breed contempt...

It is not a theory that Ferguson subscribes to, even though he years for the European Cup...

O'Leary revives the style of the Seventies



By Peter Robinson

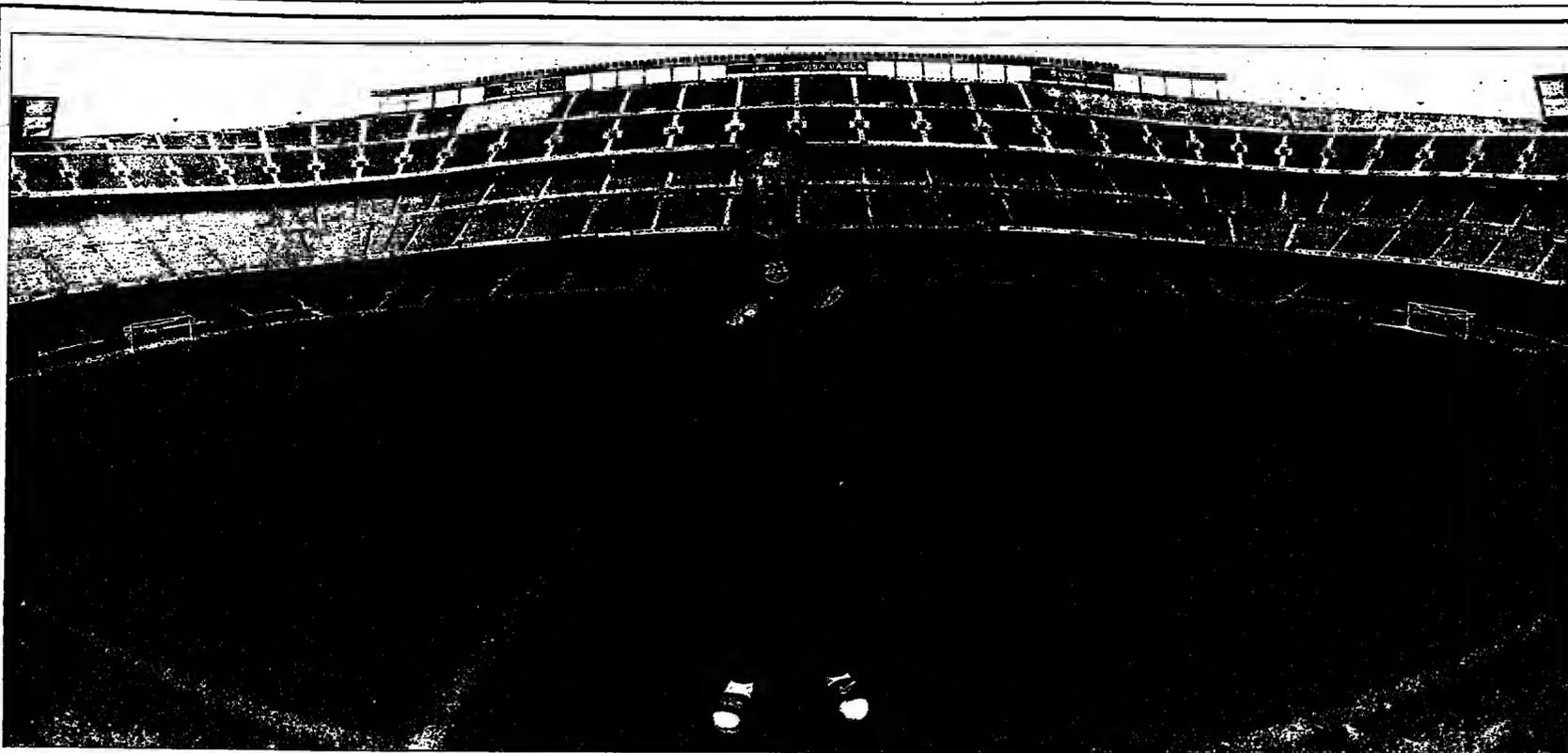
ARSENAL was the blueprint no question. George Graham arrived in Yorkshire intent on recreating the glory days at Highbury...



Bowyer: dominant

way around - Harry Kewell the Australian prodigy has a licence to dribble almost at will...

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ted departure
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Redknapp



Empty promise? Despite his towering reputation and past achievements, Van Gaal is under increasing pressure from the supporters who make Barcelona the biggest football club in the world. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Camp followers put King Louis under new threat of exile

Oliver Holt meets the Barcelona manager who knows his team must beat Manchester United on Wednesday

He came to Barcelona like a Sun King, a Louis with the splendour of a Bourbon, bedecked with honours and with a reputation as a great footballing leader. He looked imperious and haughty, with his high forehead and his dismissive manner, and all of Catalonia was sure that he was the man to lead them into a new era of conquest.

European Cup Champions' League match against Manchester United here on Wednesday night that he dare not lose, the Catalan press and some of those within the club are openly agitating for him to be dismissed as Barcelona teeter on the edge of elimination from European competition.

played at the Nou Camp and it seemed as if it was their destiny to be masters of Europe this season. But it is not working out like that.

the future of the Dutch coach will be thrown into jeopardy. "It will be difficult for us to qualify for the quarter-finals," Van Gaal said, "because now we are in hands of the other teams. We have to win our last two games, that is for sure, then it depends on Bayern Munich. I am aware of all the criticism. I care about criticism, but I do not care about criticism not based on facts. I always listen to it because you can learn from it, but most of it is not constructive or productive."

"I can only say what I feel. In my first year, we won three titles, so the expectations are very high. There is also the coincidence of the centenary celebrations. Everybody wants us to be in that final at the Nou Camp and, because of that, they are very disappointed at what has happened so far.

doesn't matter any more. Now we have to win the European Cup and if we do not do that, then it is very difficult to survive."

league here, but our first priority is to be at the top of the table and quality has to be our leading motive in recruiting players.

Light relief in defeat for Druids

Flexsys Cefn Druids.....1
Caernarfon Town.....5

THE Druids from Cefn Mawr will not remember their second Welsh Cup meeting with Caernarfon Town in successive seasons with any affection. Its high point was a planching header by Paul Williams that put them level at 1-1 in the 32nd minute.

McLaughlin bows out on high note



By Nick Szczepanik



McLeod, left, of Scotland, evades Prince, of England, during his side's 1-0 victory

THE decisive game in the Adidas Victory Shield, the competition for the under-15 teams of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, went the way of Scotland with a 1-0 win at London Road, Peterborough, on Friday night.

Unlike the England team, who now come under the wing of the Football Association, the Scotland side is still run by the Scottish Schools FA (SSFA). McLaughlin is a schoolteacher with Scottish FA qualifications.

down process, although players usually have a chance to restate their claims. "It's a constant assessing and re-assessing situation," Watson said.

international at the age group was a 1-0 win over Germany in Berlin in May, but it continues to run a team at under-18 level for players who have stayed on at school.

the record scorer for England Schoolboys in one season is a certain Michael Owen, the Liverpool striker, with 12 goals.

Waldron breaks Bradfield resistance

Hampton.....1
Bradfield.....0

By John Goodbody

HAMPTON reached the semi-final of the annual Boodle and Dunthorne Cup for independent schools for the first time after a taut game of rare commitment, a looping headed goal in the 72nd minute by Matt Waldron, the captain, settling the first quarter-final, which are being played this week.

of unrelenting activity for someone to vary the pace, to hold the ball and to consider where to place the most telling pass. Players sometimes hurried unnecessarily, when they were not under pressure, because they had not succeeded before receiving the ball how closely they were being marked.

tion and close dribbling demanding careful attention from Bradfield. Fleming, Dixon and Stone (twice) had shots that went wide or were saved.

weeks at half-term can break up the season and having a tour at that point can not only keep the momentum going, but, against teams such as we met in Spain, can toughen up the players."

Cruel workload takes edge off European elite

OVERSEAS VIEW BY ROB HUGHES

FRANK LEBOEUF is not alone. On Saturday, in his column in *The Times*, he spelt out the players' lament that, with officialdom apparently uncaring, the performers can hardly give their best in so many tournaments, with so many demands on mind and body.

was Sergi, the Barcelona defender, who had been stressed during a flat-out so-called friendly against Italy three days earlier, which finished 2-2 in Salerno.

Referee: G Lewis

Table, page 40

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with 2 columns: Match details (teams, scores, goalscorers) and match notes.

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League table for the Carling Premiership showing teams, home/away records, and goal statistics.

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Didier Deschamps, of Juventus, is collared by Alessandro Pane, of Empoli, right, in the Serie A match in Turin yesterday. The game finished in a goalless draw to leave Juventus still in third place. Photograph: Claudio Papi

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VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FOR SATURDAY'S MATCHES. There were six score draws, Bristol City v Stockport, Hartlepool v Luton, Huddersfield v Barnsley, Chester v Blackpool, Hartlepool v Luton, and Hartlepool v Luton.

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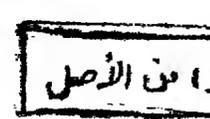
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Large advertisement for 'Antwe battle' and 'Inf' with various slogans and contact information.

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

League tables for Nationwide Football League, showing First, Second, and Third Divisions.

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Extensive list of league results and fixtures for non-league and national leagues.

THIRD DIVISION

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Advertisement for 'Inf' and 'BT Com' with various slogans and contact information.

Rob Hughes talks to the man hoping the English connection will save his beloved club

Antwerp united in battle for survival

It is Saturday night at Royal Antwerp, the club that Manchester United has chosen to become its twin on the Continent. The temperature is -5C and 3,000 souls are scattered around a stadium built more than 75 years ago to accommodate 60,000 spectators. The "Great Old", as the club is known, is, like many of its Belgian counterparts, looking to a foreign liaison for the breath of life.

Just minutes into the second division game against Maasland, inspiration arrives. Sandro da Silva, a Brazilian, opens up midfield; Danny Higginbotham, an English youth, powers down the left and crosses the ball crisply for Bimbo Fatokun Lanre, a Nigerian, to head Antwerp's first goal. Later, Higginbotham, the pioneer of young United reserves on loan, advances again from left back to round the goalkeeper and, with a shake of his hips, score the second and decisive goal. Antwerp, 2-1 winners, have stretched their victory roll to five games since Higginbotham joined the legion of eight nationalities on hire to this one-club club.

Antwerp representatives will be at Old Trafford and The Cliff training ground this week to begin cherry-picking possibly three more United starlets to help the club's push back to Belgian premier division football. Survival depends on it, a fact that is close to the heart of Eddy Wauters, 65, who played right back for the club at 15, played for his country and now, 50 years into his love affair with Antwerp, is a president who feels that he is invoking the oldest link in international football; Antwerp and the English.

The club was formed in 1890 by English students. They were in a foreign land and could not do without their football. Their missionary work spread our sport to this place, initially as Antwerp Football and Cricket Club. Maintaining the Englishness of the title is just one act of defiance, which is typical of Wauters. He is one of the leading bankers in Belgium and sits in a glasshouse, an executive box beyond any in the United Kingdom. It seats in heated comfort as many as 800 business-class supporters, each well-fed and watered and each in a red armchair. To either side, the Red Army Antwerp fanatics, looking as cold as icicles,

are chanting songs that are piped through to this executive glasshouse, little do they know that their president, who many of them blame for the club suffering relegation last season, is leaping up and down with every emotion that they feel.

At the far end of the ground, there is nothing, a black hole where the club attempted to demolish one of their creaking wooden stands and then ran out of money and ran out of faith with the mayor of Antwerp.

Photographs: Suzanne Hubbard

Wauters and his business associates are thus staring oblivion in the face. It is ironic that Belgium, the homeland of Jean-Marc Bosman, whose appeal to the European courts won freedom of contract for all players on the Continent, feels destroyed by the ramifications of his victory.

"I feel perhaps halfway to despair," Wauters said, "but we knew this would happen. It will be the death of football unless clubs like ours can have the kind of cooperation which we are embarking on with Manchester United. You are sitting tonight in a country surrounded by four or five big foot-

ball nations, with open borders, with our best young players inevitably going abroad. We cannot cope.

"In England, for example, your clubs enjoy television rights that are 22 times what is available in Belgium and when our supporters say that Wauters has bought this bad player and that, I can only say, as a banker and as a football man, that, with our resources, sometimes those are the only players available to us. How can you buy a Rolls-Royce with BF1,000,000? If you have to, you buy a Volkswagen."

The "memorandum of corporation" between the world's most prosperous club and Antwerp is one of six that other Belgian clubs are seeking with their European neighbours. The game is contracting and such deals are the only thing between minor clubs and oblivion. The De Bosuil stadium was granted royal status by King Albert I in 1920 and it has still a caucus of committed supporters and a president determined to hold on to the safety rail of survival.

Wauters is not entirely loved or respected in his homeland. He was briefly jailed in 1984 after a bribery scandal that touched all of Belgium's leading clubs and yet, clinging to ethics that are English and, so many say, are outmoded, he insists that, as a respected banker, he cannot allow Antwerp to suc-



Higginbotham, right, the Manchester United reserve on loan to Royal Antwerp, celebrates his winning goal with his team-mates

cumb to more endemic corruption, and that he is pained at the club's plight.

"Bosman is the reason for our relegation," Wauters said, "but there were certain things that I wouldn't do to save our status." These include, he insists, rejecting offers from shadowy figures to "ar-

range" favourable results last season. They include, he says, rejecting the idea of paying journalists "something in an envelope" to turn blind eyes to things happening in the Belgian league — and Wauters is also president of the professional league. He says not a penny has been discussed between Antwerp

and Manchester United at the moment. The player-swapping agreement, first mooted between himself, Martin Edwards, Alex Ferguson and Maurice Watkins two years ago, is beneficial to both sides. It means coaches, as well as players, crossing the Channel; it means full access to the scouting system for which Belgians are renowned, a system that in the past has procured teenagers, sometimes as young as 15, from Africa and from Latin America.

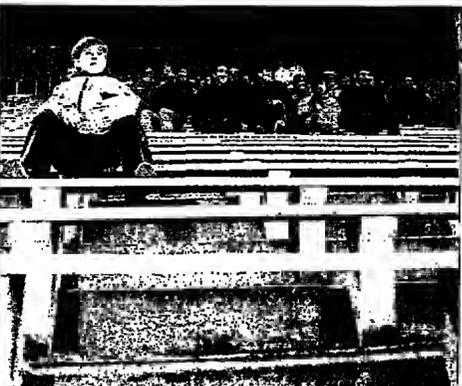
However, the assumption that United are seeking to circumvent British labour laws, to outwit the opposition of Fifa, the game's governing body, Uefa, the European football union, and the Professional Footballers' Association is, according to Antwerp, premature. Belgian laws have tightened against adolescent recruitment — yet, if an embryonic Ronaldo is spotted in Brazil, he could indeed be "parked" at Royal Antwerp, qualify for citizenship in two years and be transferred to United.

That is the future; apparently, journalists are ahead of the two participating clubs in seeing it. The present? Wauters would be happy indeed if the two-way process between his club and United can cut out the middle-man:

agents, he says, were the reason that he had to lose the nucleus of the team that played in the Cup Winners' Cup final at Wembley just five years ago. Four of that team — Rudy Smids, Francis Severeys, Hans-Peter Lehnhoff and Alex Czerniatynski — formed a clique with their manager to try to elope with more money from the club; Wauters sold them.

He is called cantankerous and even more unpleasant things at home. He knows it and he said: "My office as president is open to anyone who can come and do a better job. Next year, I hope to complete my half-century with Royal Antwerp and my mission is to save the club, to turn it around. There are many against me, but that is why I stay."

He pays the entire compliment of Antwerp players around £1.5 million, including bonuses, in a year. He hears that David Beckham received £8.5 million from all sources last year. "There you have it," Wauters said. "Some things that have come through football and through the imposition of the European Parliament, are not fair or manageable. They lack human intelligence."



Barely 3,000 supporters attend home matches in a stadium built for 60,000, but Wauters, right, is confident of better times ahead



TENNIS: ABSENCE OF BIG TWO CLEARS PATH TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Sapsford counts his blessings after claiming elusive title

AN UNINSPIRING British national championships came to a close in Telford yesterday with precious few signs for optimism below the standard set by Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski.

Danny Sapsford, 29, will long remember his 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 triumph over Nick Weal in the men's singles final, which claimed his first triumph in this event. For British tennis, however, the victory of a near-veteran over Weal, himself a part-time player, demonstrated just how shallow is the pool of talent behind the trail-blazing duo.

Sapsford has effectively abandoned his singles career to concentrate on doubles, where lesser competition — allied to handsome paycheques for first-round losses on the ATP Tour — enable him to make a living. Sapsford said of the £9,000 that he banked at Telford: "I have had cheques of this size in the past, but they came at Wimbledon. There are not many jobs in which you can earn £9,000 in a week."

Weal, 25, has not played outside Great Britain this year.

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT



Pullin: second triumph

He accounted for Barry Cowan and Miles MacLagan, seeded No 2 and No 3 respectively, en route to his best showing at the national championships.

He endured some lengthy matches throughout the week and needed treatment for a leg injury against Sapsford.

Sapsford, who was landing the national title at the thirtieth attempt, recovered

from an early break in the deciding set to triumph after more than two hours of a struggle that both players were understandably anxious to win.

The absence of Henman and Rusedski prompted Sapsford to return from South America, where he was playing doubles on clay, to take his chance. It was to prove a popular victory, Sapsford having served British tennis in a supporting role for more than a decade.

The Surrey-based player, beaten in three sets by Henman in the semi-finals last year, had earlier accounted for the flush of youth in his semi-final on Saturday, when he outclassed Mark Hilton, the national 18-and-under champion, 6-1, 6-2.

A wild-card entrant, Hilton, 17, threatened to write his own headlines before Sapsford stopped him in his tracks, thereby emphasising how much progress Hilton must make to figure on the world stage. Nevertheless, Hilton, from Cheshire, played his part in the dispersal of leading

seeds on the way to the semi-final.

The women's event produced the final envisaged by the seeding committee when Sam Smith met Julie Pullin on Saturday. However, the verdict went to Pullin, seeded No 2, who fended off five match points and a 5-1 deficit in the deciding set to prevail 6-7, 6-2, 7-6.

The fact that the contest was punctuated by 16 service breaks exposed the lack of quality in a match that sealed Pullin's second national championships victory in three years. At least the winner's resilience shone through.

Pullin, from Sussex, said that she was anxious to gauge her progress against that of Smith, whose world ranking rose to No 56 after a fruitful grass-court summer. Although Smith, 26, refused to cite a longstanding ankle injury for her defeat, British tennis aficionados must hope that the offending joint has been largely responsible for Smith's failure to win a single main-draw match on the WTA Tour since she reached the fourth round at Wimbledon in July.

Injury woe for resurgent Graf

ANOTHER tournament — another injury for Steffi Graf. Life on the tennis circuit is becoming frustratingly and painfully predictable. When she is fit, she can still beat anyone, but staying fit is becoming increasingly difficult. Playing Lindsay Davenport for a place in the final of the Chase Championships, she reached for a backhand and suddenly felt a sharp pain in her right hamstring. As experienced in taking injury breaks as she is in winning titles, Graf knew that she was in trouble and, from there, the contest was effectively over. Davenport winning 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

On the long list of injuries that constitutes Graf's career, hamstrings do not feature large, but the last time it happened was also against Davenport and also in the third set of a semi-final, that time in Indian Wells in March. Then she was still in the early stages of her comeback and the frustration was plain to see. This time, in her twelfth tournament of the year and having forced her ranking back into the top ten with two consecutive titles leading

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

into this event, she was in a much better frame of mind.

It had not been a great match by any means. Winning in Leipzig and Philadelphia had taken more out of Graf than she had realised while Davenport was struggling to get her mind and her game working in unison. "I don't think the quality was very good," Graf said. "I really had difficulties getting myself involved in the match and we both committed a lot of unforced errors." As for the injury, she was resigned to another setback. "Sure it's disappointing, but there is nothing you can do about it, that's the way it is," she said.

It was a missed opportunity for Graf. After a miserable first set, she worked herself back into the match in the second and was beginning to take command in the third, but beating the No 1 player in the world on one leg was beyond even her capabilities. Graf has little time to recuper-

ate, with a heavy schedule of promotional work and exhibition matches planned in the coming weeks. That leaves little time to prepare for the start of the new season in January and, just to add insult to injury, thinking she had no chance to qualify for this event, she had booked a holiday in the Caribbean for this week and had had to miss that as well.

Davenport, too, is not the fittest of contenders going into the final. She has blisters on both feet and, playing in the doubles final on Saturday, had to have treatment for an injury to her racket arm. That was just the news that Martina Hingis was hoping for. She was not playing well against Irina Spirela in the other semi-final, but was relieved when Spirela managed to play even worse and let her off the hook in the second set. Hingis going through 6-2, 7-6. There has not been much this year that has focused Hingis's attention, but the thought of proving a point to Davenport, who swiped her No 1 ranking last month, may just do the trick.

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BASKETBALL
BUIDENBERG LEAGUE: Birmingham Bulls 80, Thames Valley Tigers 50.

WORLD SUPERMIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP (12 rounds, 120 seconds)
S. Edwards (Wales) vs J. Edgar (Wales)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-101, 2-161, 3-164, 4-308.
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 70-3-0-1.

CYCLING
CYCLO-CROSS: Open London championship (Academy) held near Crystal Palace.

RACKETS
QUEEN'S CLUB: Pool Hunt Invitational.
REAL TENNIS: QUEEN'S CLUB: Pool Hunt Invitational.

SCHOOLS SPORT
FOOTBALL: Addax Victory Shield League.
SWIMMING: RUGBY UNION: Bedford Modern v Uppingham.

SNOOKER
BURNEMOUTH: Liverpool Victoria United.
SQUASH: CAROL HALL: P. Nicol (Ireland) vs P. Nicol (Ireland).

TENNIS
HARTFORD: Connecticut ATP World doubles.
VOLLEYBALL: JAPAN: Men's world championship.

ATHLETICS
Cross country
ST ASAPH: Durbidge British veterans international meeting.

CRICKET
One-day international
Pakistan v Zimbabwe

EQUESTRIANISM
AMSTERDAM: World Cup Show Jumping.

FIGURE SKATING
PARIIS: Lailouze Trophy.
LUGE: NOLA: World Cup.

RUGBY LEAGUE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division.

BOXING
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE LEISURE CENTRE.

HOCCY
MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division.

ICE HOCKEY
SUPERLEAGUE: Sunday.

World Cup European qualifying
Pool one
England 23 Romania 36

WORLD SUPERMIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP (12 rounds, 120 seconds)
S. Edwards (Wales) vs J. Edgar (Wales)

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WORLD SUPERMIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP (12 rounds, 120 seconds)
S. Edwards (Wales) vs J. Edgar (Wales)



Julian Snow stoops to conquer Rory Gunn 6-5, 6-2, 6-1 in the semi-finals of the real tennis British Land Open at Queen's Club. He will now face Steve Vergara, 20, who became the youngest player to reach the final by beating Mike Gooding

كندا من الأصل

Rally to fire cash quick
THE TIMES WEEKLY
WOOD-WATSON

Rallying round to find cash for quick fix

Kevin Eason on the enthusiasts who will be battling alongside the sport's elite over three long days

Prospective owners should hope that Paul Green finds his way safely through the forbiddingly solid trees that line the most difficult routes on the Rally of Great Britain today. The oil broker-cum-part-time rally driver has decided to put his Skoda Felicia up for sale, not only after it has completed three tortuous days of tearing through mud and gravel that could do enough damage to keep a paint shop in work for a week.



Unlike the leading manufacturer-backed teams, with their multimillion pound budgets, Green's prime objective is to win his Skoda home in one go, guided by his wife, Stephanie. The couple are one of almost 170 entries for the RAC Rally of Great Britain, a handful of which are professional drivers and rival teams paid by the big car manufacturers and supported by elaborately equipped teams.



Innes and Alyson Marlow are two of the scores of enthusiastic amateurs taking part in the Rally of Great Britain over three days of intense competition this week



Innes and Alyson spent around £25,000 on their Ford Cosworth, but not all rally cars are so expensive

BEHIND THE SCENES

MOTOR SPORT can seem a daunting challenge, even for the most intrepid enthusiast faced with the prospect of investing savings and a lot of time into what can be a costly pastime.

- Budgets of the top teams are extravagant, with cars costing around £250,000 to build. Then they can use up to 50 high-performance engines a year. On that scale, rallying is for the elite only.
- Rallying need not be expensive, however: a car is the biggest investment, though they can be bought relatively cheaply second-hand after a trawl through the classifieds in motoring magazines, such as Autosport, Motoring News or Cars & Conversions. Here are some useful guidelines.
- Don't be too ambitious at the start. Choose a car that you can handle and recruit a co-driver whose friendship is durable enough to withstand the inevitable mishaps.
- Join a local motor club that organises events as well as giving advice on rules and regulations.
- Have a full driving licence. You will need it for road stages and you will need a special licence from the RAC Motor Sports Association, the governing body, which costs £42.50 for a driver and £27 for the navigator.
- Get some practice before an event to understand the art of rally driving. Several circuits, such as Silverstone and Brands Hatch, have rallying schools that can give good advice on how to drive quickly. Prices vary.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The word "kibitzer", defined in the dictionary as "an onlooker at a game, especially one who offers unwanted advice", is a term in general use in the bridge world to describe someone who sneaks the game. A kibitzer is expected to sit quietly on the sidelines and not affect the play in any way. In practice, in a tsy bridge club some kibitzers will hover at table after table, nattering when they see something of interest. This, in itself, can have an effect on the play.

Dealer South N-S game Rubber bridge

♠ 3	♥ KQ76	♦ J942
♥ J943	♠ AK42	♣ Q53
♦ 10764		♠ 275
♣ QJ1095		♦ AK
		♠ 3

Contract: Seven Spades by South. Lead: queen of clubs.

Many years ago, John Crawford, a top American player in the pre-war era, was declared in Seven Spades. Crawford, always a lively, charismatic figure, was surrounded by an array of spectators West had led the club quaver and Crawford won in dummy. He was about to lay down his trump and claim his contract, when he noticed that the kibitzers were not moving and were sitting on the edge of their chairs. Surely, he reasoned, if trumps were about to divide normally there could be no problem. So why, he went on to ask himself, had the spectators not all moved away? Why were they staying? Crawford thought about it, and the only conclusion was that he would have to finesse the ten of spades, a line that gains only if East holds all the outstanding trumps. Crawford used his judgement, table presence and intuition to take just that line and make his grand slam.

This story and many others can be found in an excellent new hardback book, there being only some half dozen actual hands; it is *Tales from the Bridge Table* by John Clay. It should be stressed that this is not really a bridge book, just a general good read with stories about the game's more colourful characters. Available from Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR; tel: 0171 388 2404, price £17.99, post free for *Times* readers.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

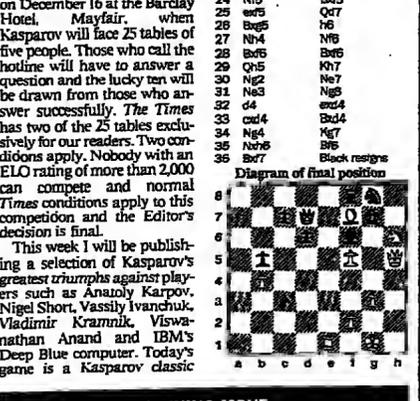
Times and Kasparov

In 1993 *The Times* organised a world chess championship held at the Savoy Theatre in London between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short. *The Times* is now proud to continue the association with the world chess champion by offering ten *Times* readers a free place to compete against him in his charity chess display, to be held in December.

To take advantage of this opportunity please call 0640 678884 from the UK or 1550 122152 from outside the UK. Calls cost 60p per minute in the UK and 50p per minute outside. The line will be open from today, Monday November 23 until Saturday, December 5.

The display will take place on December 16 at the Barclay Hotel, Mayfair, when Kasparov will face 25 tables of five people. Those who call the hotline will have to answer a question and the lucky ten will be drawn from those who answered successfully. *The Times* has two of the 25 tables exclusively for our readers. Two conditions apply. Nobody with an ELO rating of more than 2,000 can compete and normal *Times* conditions apply to this competition and the Editor's decision is final.

This week I will be publishing a selection of Kasparov's greatest triumphs against players such as Anand, Karpov, Nigel Short, Vassily Ivanchuk, Vladimir Kravnik, Viswanathan Anand and IBM's Deep Blue computer. Today's game is a Kasparov classic



WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Lasker-Chigorin, Hastings 1895. The white king is slightly restricted. How did Black close the net?

Solution on page 50.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PROPYLAEM
a. Liquid gas storage
b. Entrance vestibule
c. A thoracic organ

CULDEES
a. Monks
b. Scottish hills
c. Wild fruit

PANNAG
a. Landing gear
b. Silver vessel
c. An item of trade

EPITANY
a. Staffing
b. Crystal structure
c. Road transport

Answers on page 50

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY
FOOTBALL
FA Carling Premiership
Everton v Newcastle (8.0).....

OTHER SPORT
ICE HOCKEY: European League: Manchester Storm v Bolzano (7.0)

WEDNESDAY
FOOTBALL
EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Ajax v Croatia Zagreb (7.45), Olympique v FC Porto (7.45), Group B: Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munich (7.45), Tottenham v Lazio (7.45), Group C: Spartak Moscow v SK Sturm Graz (4.45), Internazionale v Real Madrid (7.45), Group D: Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United (7.45), Bayern Munich v Borussia Dortmund (7.45), Group E: Arsenal v Lens (7.45), Dynamo Kiev v Panathinaikos (5.45), Group F: FC Internazionale v FC Internazionale (5.45), Benfica v Kalesnikow (7.45)

THURSDAY
FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Barnet v Hednesford, Cheltenham v Rushden and Diamonds, Farnborough v Southampton, Bradford v Doncaster, Luton v Stevenage, Gillingham v Northampton, Yeovil v Exeter, Southend v Ebbsfleet, Torquay v Dover.

FRIDAY
FOOTBALL
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnet v Luton (7.45), Third division: Histon v Mansfield (7.45)

SATURDAY
FOOTBALL
FA CUP: Semi-finals: Tottenham v West Ham (5.0), Manchester City v Liverpool (5.0)

SUNDAY
FOOTBALL
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Norwich v Oxford (12.0), West Bromwich v Wolverhampton (12.0), Walsley v Leyton Orient (11.30)

OTHER SPORT
BOXING: Hillsborough WBO International middleweight title fight: Ibrahim El Zair v Ivan Calderon (19.0), Umar Hall, Belfast; Vacant British and Commonwealth titles: O Corbett (Belfast, Commonwealth champion) v Scott (Hednesford)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Cardiff Devils v Hull Stingrays (8.0); Nottingham Panthers v Newcastle Ravenswings (8.30); Sheffield Steelers v Bradford Bees (7.0)

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Aberystwyth v Llanelli, Bridgend v Newport, Ebbw Vale v Caerphilly, Penyrhondy v Neath, Flat division: Blackwood v Tondu, Darnley v Newbridge, Llanvoryn v Meistrig, Pontypool v Aberystwyth, Rhydymwyn v Merthyr, South Wales Police v Bonython, Tringrege v Treorchy, UWC v Cross Keys.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Doncaster Rovers v Colchester (12.0), Sutton Coldfield v Colton (11.30)

WORLD CUP: European qualifying zones: Pool three: Scotland v Portugal (12.0)

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England v Australia (1st Test), Ireland v South Africa (1st Test), Sri Lanka v Bangladesh (1st Test)

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: First round, first leg: Blackhead v London Scottish (8.0), Bristol v Westfield (8.30), Coventry v Bedford (8.0), Rugby v Leicester (8.0), Sale v Ormskirk (8.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Cardiff Devils v Hull Stingrays (8.0), Nottingham Panthers (8.0), Newcastle Ravenswings (8.30)

TENNIS

VOLLEYBALL

HOCKEY

ICE HOCKEY

Richard Evans on an emerging partnership in National Hunt racing
Mason applauds Guest appearance

A man with wealth beyond most people's dreams tires of sending a string of racehorses to various trainers and decides to set up his own training centre...

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: NATIVE RECRUIT (2.50 Ludlow)
Next best: Fortynineplus (2.40 Windsor)

Mason enjoyed success while still running his considerable leisure empire, but the turning point came last summer when he persuaded Richard Guest to join him as his jockey and assistant trainer.

While Sheikh Mohammed has relied on plentiful oil wells to fund his passion for horses, Mason's wealth is based on 30 amusement centres, eight bingo halls, four 'super pubs' and a brace of nightclubs in Newcastle and Sunderland.

The first racehorse he owned was given to him by a friend as part-payment of a debt, and during the past 30 years he has enjoyed more than his share of success over the jumps, notably with prolific winners such as Centre Attraction, Music Be Magic and Clever Folly, trained by the late Gordon Richards.

His horses used to come home to his stud during the summer months or when they were injured, and it dawned on Mason that he could offer them all the individual attention they required, rather than returning them to big yards where they were effectively minor cogs in a big machine.

Mason made Guest an offer "he could not refuse". Not that Guest had much choice. Explaining why he decided to change his mind and ride again, he said: "The bank account was empty."

The unlikely couple have proved a revelation. Red Marauder's success in the First National Bank Gold Cup was the ninth this season for Mason and promoted him to near the top of the jump owners' prize-money table.

He has worked his butt off and revolutionised the yard since he came here. He has turned the whole place upside down. He was not happy with the ventilation, so had all the boxes drilled out. Shavings were replaced by straw in the boxes.

Richard also changed the food around and the training routine. He virtually trains the horses from the fields and keeps them in their boxes for the minimum amount of time.

The ability to jump safely around Aintree's unique Grand National fences is paramount and was underlined in dramatic style during the Becher Chase when only three runners completed, led by Earth Summit, winner of this year's Grand National.

Earth Summit, winner of this year's Grand National, has somewhat bloodless success earned him a 16-1 quote to win the world's most famous steeplechase for a second time next April.

Don't be deceived, who appeared to break down at Ascot on Saturday, could be back in action early next year. The gelding, who was sent off 3-1 favourite for the First National Bank Gold Cup only to be pulled up suddenly before the home turn, is not so badly injured as at first feared and Roger Curtis, his trainer, is already considering a return trip to Ascot for the Victor Chandler Chase in January.



Red Marauder clears the last fence on his way to victory in the First National Bank Chase at Ascot on Saturday

Pipe to withdraw Cyfor Malta from Hennessy

CYFOR MALTA will miss the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday, his trainer, Martin Pipe, announced yesterday. "The race is going to come a bit too quick for Cyfor Malta," Pipe said.

Reveley has made no secret of the fact that she regards next month's Coral Welsh National as the ideal race for Seven Towers, who lifted the Elder Chase at Newcastle and Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter last year.

James Panshawe is waiting before making a decision about the Toiseach running. The trainer admitted he is "tempted" to go to Newbury after an impressive victory at Ascot on Saturday, but wants to assess how the seven-year-old comes out of that race before committing him.

Ginger McCain, who saddled Red Rum to win three Grand Nationals, said: "Bernard Donigan, the RSPCA's senior equine consultant, did not want to say much until the result of the post mortem on Bold Account. There is little I can comment about at the moment."

SOUTHWELL
THUNDERER
12.00 Imperial Prince, 12.30 Finisterre, 1.00 Pressure Trick, 1.30 Susarinea, 2.00 Piccolo Capov, 2.30 Mook, 3.00 Durridge Bay, 3.30 Spa Lane.

12.00 SOUTHWELL GOLF CLUB MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (€2,232; 1m 40) (14 runners)

SOUTHWELL SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: M. P. Jones, 28 winners from 90 runners, 26.7% J. Searcy, 4 from 25, 16.0% P. Hannon, 18 from 119, 15.1% S. W. Ryan, 16 from 107, 14.9% P. Hannon, 17 from 113, 15.0% D. M. Smith, 6 from 40, 15.0%.

12.30 JACK KIRKLAND HANDICAP (Ov: £1,977; 1m) (16)

1.00 JACK KIRKLAND HANDICAP (Ov: £1,966; 1m) (16)

1.30 ROOBAR AND CUSTARD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,237; 1m) (15)

2.00 SOUTHWELL ANNUAL MEMBERS FILLIES HANDICAP (Ov: £2,450; 6f) (11)

3.00 MINISTER SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O; £1,893; 7f) (11)

3.30 END OF A GREAT DAY AT SOUTHWELL AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (€1,945; 1m 60) (15)

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MEETINGS
Ascot
Going: good (chase course), good to soft (flat)

Huntingdon
Going: good
1.24.01 Not Forgotten (6-1), 2. Armitage (14-1), 3. Sarcophagus (9-2) low, 4. Gullinver (11-1) 19 ran.

Aintree
Going: good to soft (good in places)
12.31 S. Blunderer A. Azam (10-1), 2. Archimedes (11-8) low, 3. Trooper Tom (2-1) 10 ran.

Wolverhampton
Going: standard
1.02.11 Sharp Specialist (4-1) low, 2. L. P. in (4-1) low, 3. Honey With A Twist (2-1) low in places, 4. J. in (1-1) 11 ran.

Huntingdon
Going: good
1.24.01 Not Forgotten (6-1), 2. Armitage (14-1), 3. Sarcophagus (9-2) low, 4. Gullinver (11-1) 19 ran.

Catterick
Going: good (good to firm in places)
12.59 A. A. A. (2-1), 2. S. M. (10-1), 3. M. (11-1) 11 ran.

LUDLOW
THUNDERER
12.50 Solvang, 1.20 Babanaria, 1.50 COLONEL COLT nap, 2.20 Our Weathercock, 2.50 Kinna-halla, 3.20 Winstford Hill, 3.50 Garden Party II.

12.50 HAPPY BIRTHDAY PLACEBOT NOVICES HURDLE (€2,563; 2m 5f 110yd) (11 runners)

1.50 MILES MACADAM NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (€3,225; 3m) (9)

2.20 RACING CHANNEL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,549; 2m) (15)

2.50 VISCONTI BOYNE MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (€4,143; 3m 3f 110yd) (5)

3.20 NOVEMBER NOVICES CHASE (€2,788; 2m) (9)

WINDSOR
THUNDERER
1.10 Die Fledermaus, 2.40 Primitive Streak, 3.10 Red Raja, 3.40 Amaze.

1.10 CLONAKILTY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (€3,311; 2m 4f) (15 runners)

1.40 GLANDORE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (€3,293; 3m) (18 runners)

2.10 EBF KENMARE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (QUALIFY) (€2,804; 2m) (9 runners)

2.40 BALTIMORE HANDICAP CHASE (€2,997; 2m) (15 runners)

3.10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOTE PLACEBOT HANDICAP HURDLE (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (€5,303; 2m 5f 110yd) (12 runners)

3.40 BANTRY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,921; 2m) (9 runners)

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: Winc, Pinc, C, Jockeys: Wins, Rinc, S.

RACELINE
09966 1684
WINDSOR 101 201
LUDLOW 103 202
SOUTHWELL 103 203
RACE RESULTS SERVICE 168

DAY NOVEMBER 23 1998 WINDSOR THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS... COURT OF APPEAL

Law Report November 23 1998 Court of Appeal

Extension of requirement for leave to appeal

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal, Civil Division: Leave to appeal and skeleton arguments)

From January 1, 1999 leave would be required for all appeals other than appeals against committal orders, refusals to grant habeas corpus and secure accommodation orders...

The general rule applied by the Court of Appeal...

The general rule applied by the Court of Appeal, and thus the relevant basis for first instance courts deciding whether to grant leave...

ent inferences should be drawn from the evidence.

ent inferences should be drawn from the evidence. In such a case the judge, if he granted leave, should expressly indicate that that was the basis on which leave was given.

plete when he granted or refused leave to appeal...

plete when he granted or refused leave to appeal, giving his reasons. The reasons for the decision need only be brief...

27 When an application for leave to appeal was refused...

27 When an application for leave to appeal was refused, the applicant should be notified of the reasons for the refusal...

32 Where leave to appeal was granted...

32 Where leave to appeal was granted, the applicant should be notified of the reasons for the grant...

39 Where an application for leave to appeal was refused...

39 Where an application for leave to appeal was refused, the applicant should be notified of the reasons for the refusal...

40 At present, only leave applications where the applicant was legally represented...

40 At present, only leave applications where the applicant was legally represented were dealt with on paper...

Fund not liable to pay costs

Bristol and West plc v Bhadrara (No 2)

Bristol and West plc v Bhadrara (No 2) Bristol and West plc v Mascarenhas (No 2) Before Mr Justice Lightman [Judgment November 12]

5 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

5 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

6 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

6 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

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11 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

11 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

Burden of proving loss of tax

Hurley v Taylor (Inspector of Taxes)

Hurley v Taylor (Inspector of Taxes) Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Potter [Judgment October 23]

12 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

12 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

13 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

13 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

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18 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

18 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

Wide meaning given to 'accused'

Regina v Preston Crown Court, Ex parte Lancashire County Council

Regina v Preston Crown Court, Ex parte Lancashire County Council Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Brooke [Judgment November 5]

19 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

19 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

20 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

20 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

21 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

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25 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation...

25 In the case where an insurer had funded litigation by the insured, it was not sufficient to justify an order for costs against the insurer...

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SAVE 20% ON YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



Starting tomorrow, collect the first of five discount vouchers this week and you can save 20 per cent on your Christmas shopping at five of the biggest names in the high street. With tomorrow's offer you can enjoy 20 per cent off fresh arabica coffees and speciality teas from Whittard of Chelsea. Other 20 per cent offers this week are:

- Wednesday - Sockshop's gift ideas include plain, patterned and fun socks, children's accessories, glamorous hosiery and underwear
- Thursday - Principles and Principles for Men help you find the key party looks with a stylish range of clothing and gift ideas for family and friends
- Friday - ChocExpress offers you 20 per cent off its special edition range of delivered chocolates: 20 carefully selected chocolates and truffles, sent in beautiful handmade oval keepsake boxes, ideal for gifts
- Saturday - Knickerbox offers savings on seasonal lingerie, plunging velvet bras, sassy hot pants, seductive sheer slips and slinky silk wraps.

CHOC EXPRESS

SOCK SHOP

principles for men

principles

KNICKERBOX

Whittard OF CHELSEA

CHANGING TIMES

مكذبا من الأصل

كنا من الامل

NOVEMBER 23 1998

Romania display shows up Irish failings

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table of stock prices for alcoholic beverages including AB, B, and other categories.

BANKS

Table of stock prices for various banks and financial institutions.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table of stock prices for food and beverage manufacturing companies.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table of stock prices for leisure and hotel companies.

MINING

Table of stock prices for mining companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

BEVERAGES, PUBS & REST

Table of stock prices for beverage, pub, and restaurant companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table of stock prices for telecommunications companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table of stock prices for building materials companies.

ELECTRICITY

Table of stock prices for electricity companies.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table of stock prices for electronic and electrical companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

CHEMICALS

Table of stock prices for chemical companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

CONSTRUCTION

Table of stock prices for construction companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table of stock prices for distributor companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table of stock prices for engineering and vehicle companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

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Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property and real estate companies.

COMPAG Planet Microsoft advertisement with contact information and services.

Main table of equity prices including various sectors like PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, RETAILERS GENERAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, BRITISH FUNDS, SHORTS, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LONGS, UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED, and SUPPORT SERVICES.

Oil groups face cuts in Caspian

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

WESTERN oil companies will be forced to cut investment in the Caspian Sea region if Opec fails to act this week to reverse the crumbling oil price.

Oil companies such as BP, Chevron and Mobil have poured money into Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan in the hope that it will replace the North Sea as the new frontier, but the low oil price and high transport costs may spoil their expansion plans, says the Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES).

A dispute is expected at Wednesday's meeting in Vienna of the Opec oil cartel after a week in which the Brent crude forward contract dipped to \$11.15 per barrel. Algeria has called for further action to restrict production, but leading Opec members, such as Venezuela and Iran, have yet to agree to any such measures.

The likelihood of a stalemate and inaction suggests a bearish outlook for oil prices in 1999, leading to investment cut-

backs in high-cost areas. The CGES reckons that oil prices will stay well below \$13 next year, even assuming Opec with its 2.6 million barrel per day cut in output. Julian Lee, of the CGES, sees little hope for high-cost producers. He said: "It's an extremely gloomy outlook for the Caspian."

The problem is the high cost of getting the oil in market. The CGES reckons Chevron's lifting costs in the Tengiz field are about \$3.30, with transport to markets in the Mediterranean costing a further \$5.20.

BPs AIOC consortium in Azerbaijan has operating costs of \$5 to \$6 per barrel, with transport costing \$2.20. Mr Lee said: "If you include tax and financing costs, that leaves little, if any, margin."

He reckons there are comparisons between the Caspian region and the North Sea, where average production costs are \$12 a barrel, indicating that many oil companies are losing almost \$1 a barrel.



Cliff Stanford, centre, intends to help to fund and market low-budget British films

Redbus lift for British films

By Chris Ayres

CLIFF STANFORD, the entrepreneur who pocketed nearly \$34 million in May when he sold Demon Internet to Scottish Telecom, will today reveal that he has used part of his personal fortune to create Redbus Films, a venture designed to help to finance and market low-budget British films.

The first film to be funded by Redbus Films will be *Out of Depth*, a thriller set in London and based on a true story, starring Sean Maguire and Rika Rushingham. Redbus will contribute £100,000 to the film's £450,000 budget, market it and help the producers to secure a distribution deal.

Mr Stanford said: "This will hopefully be the first of a number of films that we support. These guys came to me with more of a business plan than a film idea. They were clearly businessmen first and film-makers second. The whole idea of this project is to take a risk and get a good return."

Size means little in the debate on an integrated Europe

The EU's integrationist bandwagon rolls on. We all know that the aim is to create a single European economy to rival the US. Last week, Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, was in London trying to sign up Britain to the latest initiatives, which apparently include the harmonisation of taxes. This spells trouble.



ROGER BOOTLE

The US example seems to suggest that size is everything, yet Europe's policymakers need to be mindful of one awkward fact that points in the opposite direction. Some of the world's most successful and richest countries are small. Moreover, there are some notable examples of very large countries whose economic performance has been poor.

It is also striking that most of the successful small countries have operated, against the prevailing trend, with small government sectors and lowish rates of personal taxation. Even in Singapore, where the State performs a powerful role in the economy, there has been no hostility to personal wealth and no grandiose welfare schemes or wasteful state spending.

clear that they simply cannot be afforded. There is a simple lesson here for the European Union. It is even less dependent than the US. This will enable it to choose to go its own way, and even, for a time, to do relatively well if the current transatlantic dispute over banana import quotas were to escalate into a full-blown trade war.

But ultimately, size alone will not do much good. Combined with the EU's extremely weak democratic structures, which isolate its institutions from the voters, it may even prove to be a source of weakness. Unlike the successful small countries, it will be unable to delude itself that it can adopt all sorts of crackpot ideas and not suffer.

In practice how successful an "integrated" Europe turns out to be will depend upon the policies pursued. It can integrate until the cows come home, but if this is concurrent with the extension of an intrusive state, the perpetuation of excessive levels of taxation and the suppression of market forces then Europe will stagnate and become an economic backwater. It will become simply a large, integrated failure.

Personal bankruptcy is catching

BANKRUPTCY is contagious, with one third of personal insolvencies leading to someone else going bust, according to a new survey (Adam Jones writes).

The findings of the report by the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency (SPI) also suggested that there has been a big increase in the number of bankrupt farmers. The SPI said 37 per cent of bankruptcy cases led to a "knock-on" insolvency. The average debt of bankrupt farmers, down from £106,500 in the 1996 survey.

The SPI found that agricultural and horticultural workers' accounted for a much greater proportion of personal insolvencies, up from 1.3 per cent to 5 per cent. It put this down to the financial problems caused by BSE and falling crop prices.

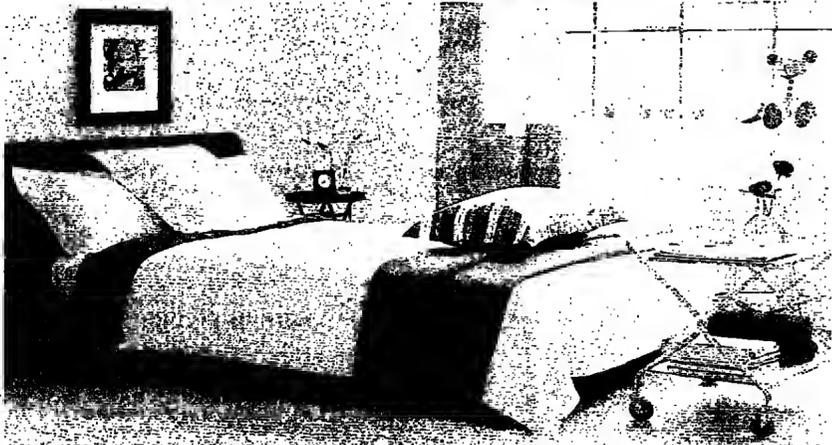
Yet all successful small countries share an inherent weakness which they have turned into a strength. They are acutely dependent upon big countries allowing them to trade extensively. If the world puts up barriers, they cannot easily survive — whether or not they put up barriers of their own. Recognising this they have welcomed openness to the world and made themselves highly competitive. This has turned into a major strength because the past few decades have been characterised by growth of world trade and this has been an important source of economic advance. The dominant trends in the world economy have played to the suits in which the small countries have been strong.

Today, competition within Europe over tax rates could serve Europe's people well. Gordon Brown needs to resist tax harmonisation for all he is worth — not only for Britain's sake but for Europe's.

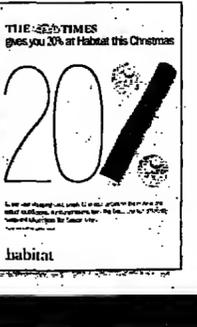
Table with columns: 1998 High, 1998 Low, Mkt Cap (million), Price, Why +/-, Yld %, P/E. Lists various companies like 3i, 4i, 5i, etc.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Formula One in a spin

By Gavin Lumsden

FORMULA ONE is having a row with the Stock Exchange over disclosure of key documents in the listing particulars relating to its planned \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) euro-bond. Advisers to Bernie Ecclestone, the motor racing entrepreneur, have denied that the issue is at risk after a debt rating agency declined to provide Formula One with a single A rating.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the investment bank behind the offering, wants the bonds listed in London. However, the Stock Exchange is believed to have asked whether Formula One has released all the material documents relating to exclusive TV contracts.

The European Commission is already investigating Formula One's arrangements with broadcasters. Revenue from the sale of TV rights will form the bulk of the cashflow bondholders will receive.

Del Monte seeks listing in attempt to reunite brand

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

DEL MONTE Royal Foods, the South African company that controls the lion's share of Europe's tinned pineapple market, is planning a listing in London or New York as part of a strategy aimed at reuniting the world's best-known pineapple brand.

Vivian Imerman, chief executive and major shareholder of Del Monte, wants to use a European or US-listing as a springboard for acquisitions that could ultimately bring together under one umbrella the US, European and Asian Del Monte interests. Del Monte was split into three after the takeover by RJR Nabisco in the 1980s.

The South African company, best known for its tinned pineapples and "man from Del Monte" advertisements, is today announcing the takeover of a leading Thai pineapple exporter, Siam Agro Industry Pineapple, a continuation

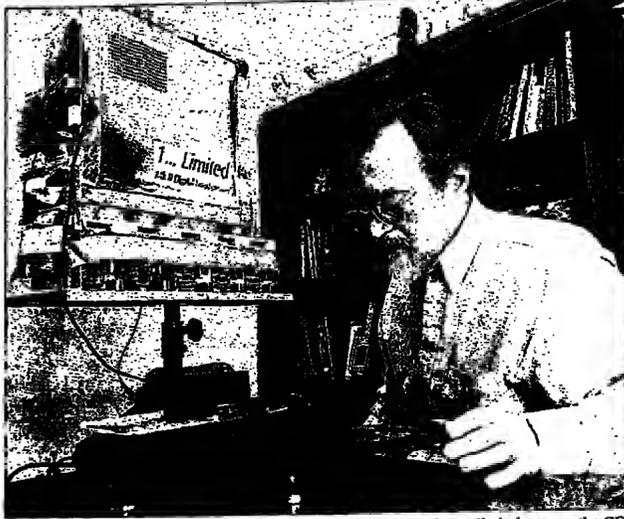
of a strategy aimed at increasing its 35 per cent share of the world pineapple market. The acquisition follows a partnership deal struck in July with Cirio, the Italian fresh milk and tinned food producer that also owns Lazio, the Rome football club. Cirio acquired a 30 per cent stake held by Anglo American, providing Del Monte with a strong partner with access to Europe, a market where Del Monte already has 26 per cent of tinned pineapple sales.

Mr Imerman wants to use the current slump in the pineapple business and recessionary pressures in the currency industry to take Del Monte into a bigger league. "We are the lowest-cost producer of pineapples. Production has declined because a lot of people were selling below cost." Pineapples have recently soared in price as a result of crop losses related to El Niño.

Mr Imerman's strategy is to move Del Monte out of South Africa on to the world stage and is being advised by Bain & Co on the best location for a listing. "The idea would be to raise equity capital and to have shares for acquisitions."

Shares listed on a major stock exchange would give Del Monte the currency to do a deal with the other owners of the Del Monte brand, Texas Pacific in the US and Kikkoman, the Japanese soy sauce company. Mr Imerman said: "It is possibly the best thing that could happen. I think it is non-core for Kikkoman."

Mr Imerman has already taken control of Del Monte in the Philippines, buying out the interest of Kikkoman and Del Monte Corporation in the US. Mr Imerman originally took control of Del Monte when US sanctions forced Nabisco to sell its South African assets.



Tony Hooley says his digital speaker could be as important to the audio industry as the CD

Audio boffin close to deal

A CAMBRIDGE boffin who claims to have invented a revolutionary "digital loudspeaker" is close to securing £700,000 of funding, and is in talks to licence his technology to three hi-fi and audio companies (Chris Ayres writes).

Tony Hooley says his technology could be as important for the audio industry as the invention of the CD player. He said: "This product could be to the conventional loudspeaker what

the CD was to vinyl records." He added that digital speakers eliminated imperfections in sound quality suffered by conventional speakers. The product is likely to be called the Hooley Digital Speaker.

Dr. Hooley's company, I...Limited, was formed in 1995 with £50,000 in funding from the DTI. It went on to receive another £300,000 from private investors.

MacLaurin tipped for M&S job

LORD MacLaurin of Knebworth, the architect of Tesco's leadership of the supermarket sector, is being tipped as a possible solution to Marks & Spencer's succession dilemma.

Reports yesterday claimed that the former Tesco chief has been approached about the post of non-executive deputy chairman, which Keith Oates is expected to relinquish in the next few days. Lord MacLaurin would then be expected to take over as chairman when Sir Richard Greenbury eventually steps down from the post.

One leading fund manager said that Lord MacLaurin 61, was an ideal person to restore M&S's fortunes after its recent fall from grace, but insisted that institutions would not lead a move, adding: "It's up to the non-executive directors to come up with a solution."

A former colleague said of Lord MacLaurin: "He is a tremendously able general who can unite the troops. He is a real master at creating organisation from conflict."

Mr Oates and Peter Salisbury, joint managing directors, have their hats in the ring to lead M&S, but Mr Oates's lobbying of directors seems to have angered Sir Richard.

Employers fear pensions burden

EMPLOYERS fear the introduction of stakeholder pensions because they believe it would add further burdens and costs to doing business (Marianne Curphey writes).

Research by NPI, the life and pensions group, claims that stakeholder pensions must be compulsory to be effective and to spread responsibility equally across all businesses.

A Green Paper outlining the structure of the stakeholder pension is expected within the next fortnight. However, ministers are thought to have rejected the idea of compulsion and are concentrating instead on how to realign tax reliefs to encourage the less well-off to save for their old age.

In the NPI study, employers were much more enthusiastic about the concept, attracted to the simplicity, flexibility and low cost of the proposed scheme. NPI has now passed its research to the DSS as part of its pensions review.

The study found that employees were worried about the cost of pension products and the role of advisers seeking commissions. They also felt the need to save for their old age because they believed that state pensions would not be indefinitely maintained. The self-employed, however, regarded the stakeholder pension as an attempt by Government to tax the self-employed and force them into an unwanted system.

Tax harmonisation will be catastrophic for Britain

From William Cash, MP
Sir, I was greatly heartened to read Rosemary Righter's analysis on EMU (November 17).

As I said at the German Industry Forum on October 13, which was held at the Foreign Office, the new German policies effectively destabilise the stability pact, which was always a misguided policy aimed at force-feeding the Maastricht criteria.

Of course, the new German policies have, as many of us have predicted, incalculable consequences for unemployment in Europe compounded by the French, Italian and British Governments.

When old Labour governments resisted European integration it was because they thought it was a capitalist plot. They now enthuse for it as a socialist plot.

The determination to achieve tax harmonisation agreed on November 16, to which Rosemary Righter refers, will be catastrophic for the British economy, British company directors and the British taxpayer.

The latest pamphlet from the European Foundation entitled *Moving on Up* highlights the current moves towards company and savings tax harmonisation in the European Union and the effect of these developments on the UK's control of its tax policy, and so future levels of UK tax.

British company directors should be made aware. Yours sincerely, WILLIAM CASH, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

M&S misguided over licensing

From Peter Shepherd
Sir, Marks & Spencer's statement that they are justified in challenging the Newspaper Licensing Agency's right to issue licences and charge a fee is quite simply misguided.

The Copyright, Designs and Patent Act 1988 expressly forbids the multiple copying of literary and text works except under a licence from the appropriate licensing agency. In the case of newspapers this is the Newspaper Licensing Agency. In the case of extracts from books, journals and periodicals, it is the Copyright Licensing Agency, which has been licensing business, education and government for over 15 years.

It is often mistakenly assumed that making a few copies causes nobody any harm. Such copyright infringement in fact not only deprives writers and publishers of reasonable reward for their work, but at the same time it fails to provide any incentive for creativity.

Marks & Spencer, as an organisation strongly protective of their brand, should surely be aware of this. Yours sincerely, PETER SHEPHERD (chief executive), The Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0LP.

Life will go on outside EMU

From Mr John Parfitt
Sir, Mr Pincham is wrong to suggest that staying out of EMU is not feasible. There is no reason to believe that most major British industries will account and invoice in euros from 1999. Some might, just as they might use dollars or francs now for some purposes by agreement with their trading partners, but most will not.

And computer software which deals in foreign currency would be pretty awful if it did not allow the use of an additional foreign (sic) currency — which is what the euro is. Also his suggestion that any responsible organisation would

award a 25-year contract to a foreign company and then allow it to dictate the terms of payment is pure fantasy.

What he did not tell us is that he is a member of his council's minority Liberal Democrat group which is committed to EMU. One hopes that the controlling Conservatives would not put the ratepayers' interests at risk as Mr Pincham suggests. Yours faithfully, JOHN PARFIT, St Andrews, New Street, Painswick, Gloucestershire, GL6 6UN.

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THE FAC...
THE BOARD...
Trade policies...
Art and antique sales soar in...

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departure fails to anger knapp



Derby County
WEST HAM
UNITED

By Matt Dickinson

THE FACTS

Turnover: £1.13 billion for the year to December 1997.
Market value: £2.15 billion
Employees: 16,500
Pre-tax profits: £64 million, including £3.2 million from acquisitions.
Businesses: IT outsourcing, consulting, computer systems integration, IT disaster recovery, and developing high-tech electronic payment systems, mainly for mobile phone operators.

THE BOARD

Pierre Bonelli, an enigmatic 59-year-old Frenchman, is Sema's chief executive and one of only two executive directors at the company.

He was educated at the Ecole Polytechnique and Harvard Business School before joining Texas Instruments, the US technology group, as an engineer in 1966.

He left Texas in 1976 to become general manager and then chairman of Sema Metra, a French IT company. In 1988 the company merged with Britain's Cap Group to create the Sema currently quoted on the London and Paris stock markets, with M Bonelli taking the top position.

The other executive director of Sema is André Félix, 65, whose main responsibilities are to look after the company's technical systems on the Continent. M Félix is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications. He joined the original version of Sema (Société d'Economie et de Mathématiques Appliquées) a year after its creation in 1959.

The company is run by an executive committee, comprising the company's senior management, plus its two executive directors. Sema's non-executive directors include its chairman, Antonio Barerra de Irujo, 69, Spain's former Finance Minister and Deputy Premier.

Other non-executive directors include Sir Julian Oswald, 64, a specialist in gunnery who left the Royal Navy in 1993 after 46 years of service, and Robin Hall, 49, chairman of Sema's board investment committee and also the managing director of the venture capital group Civin. Pierre Desvilliers, 52, the finance director of France Télécom, is also a non-executive director.

Nearly every information technology analyst in the City is waiting for Sema Group to make its big move. It is almost ten months since the company said it was going to buy its way into the premier league of IT companies, alongside such giants as IBM, EDS and Andersen Consulting, with an acquisition worth up to £600 million in the US. Yet still nothing has happened.

Until very recently, Sema - formed in 1988 through the merger of France's Sema Metra and Britain's Cap Group - had enjoyed an almost unblemished track record. Now, the company is beginning to look vulnerable, especially after its results in September, which were described by one analyst as "lacklustre". Shares in the company now trade at 480p, compared with 825p during the summer.

Sema operates in a baffling range of IT markets. Its main activity is systems integration, which involves installing and integrating advanced IT systems for organisations such as Société Générale and the Ministry of Defence. Its other main market is outsourcing, bidding for multimillion-pound contracts to run IT divisions for large corporations or government departments.

Sema's other activities are not so well known. It has a successful disaster recovery business, which provides clients with emergency back-up IT systems, and also a data warehousing service, which clients can use to store and manage information about customers.

On top of all this, Sema invests heavily in producing its own software, mainly for electronic payments systems. The company has been particularly successful at designing software that enables mobile phone operators to use pre-pay services.

Yet, as mentioned above, there are two issues that are forming a darkening cloud over Sema and its share price. First, it must become a global company by moving into North America. Secondly, it must start to win the kind of enormous outsourcing contracts currently going to IBM, EDS, Computer Science Corporation and Andersen Consulting. It is generally agreed that one cannot be achieved without the other.

Analysts are keen to point out that all this carries significant risk. First, Sema is virtually unknown outside Europe. Secondly, the company's management, led by Pierre Bonelli

SEMA GROUP



Sema operates in a wide range of IT markets and its main activity is systems integration, for organisations such as the Société Générale, right. The group, led by the well-regarded Pierre Bonelli, left, has also designed the management infrastructure at Bouygues Telecom mobile network, centre

respectively; old enough to provoke speculation about retirement and succession. Apart from M Bonelli and M Félix, the executive committee that runs Sema is made up of little-known non-board members.

This kind of boardroom structure does not endear Sema to the City. Neither does the fact that it has never appointed any senior executives from outside its own ranks. The tension is not eased by Sema being based a three-hour train journey away from the Square Mile in Paris.

Everything about Sema suggests that it does not want to conform to City conventions. Its annual report looks more like the record sleeve of a Radiohead album than a financial document. Rather like Sema, it looks good on the outside but is incredibly difficult to understand. M Bonelli himself is prone to launching into intellectual discourses about even the most banal aspects of Sema's business.

This non-conformism affects the staff Sema hires. M Bonelli admits that he takes on creative loose cannons, in the belief that he can manage them better than anyone else. "We tolerate what IBM would not," he says proudly.

All these factors make it difficult to judge how well Sema would be received in North America. It must be remembered, however, that Sema has already proven its ability to adapt to new circumstances. Five years ago Sema was a very different company indeed, focused mainly on serving the

defence, energy and transport industries. The company has since restructured dramatically and is now focused mainly on the high-growth areas of telecoms and finance. Over the past few years turnover from these sectors has grown by 69 per cent and 30 per cent respectively, compared with growth of just 7 per cent in defence. In spite of M Bonelli's enthusiasm for defence information technology systems, he recognises that sluggish defence markets were responsible for Sema's disappointing sales growth at its results in September. Because of this, the company recently decided to dispose of its 50 per cent holding in BAeSema, its joint venture with British Aerospace, for £77 million.

However, Sema has no immediate plans to exit the defence markets in France and Germany, mainly because its operations in these countries are not joint ventures. The company

analyst says that Sema is taking time to find the right deal, but the City's patience is running out. M Bonelli, meanwhile, is unrepentant. He says: "I'm not going to be bullied into it. I'm a cautious man."

CHRIS AYRES

THE VERDICT

Ethical expression: 6/10
Fat-cat quotient: 9/10
Financial record: 8/10
Share performance: 7/10
Attitude to staff: 7/10
Strength of brand: 4/10
Innovation: 8/10
Annual report: 8/10
City star rating: 2/10
Future prospects: 7/10
Total: 66/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practices scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

Traded endowment policies under scrutiny

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Personal Investment Authority, the City watchdog, has begun monitoring the sale and pricing of second-hand endowment policies amid fears that projections for maturity values are wildly optimistic.

Over the past five years there has been a huge increase in the number of traded endowment policies (Teps) bought by individual investors. The industry is worth an estimated £250 million annually, even though only one in four policyholders sells rather than surrenders their policy.

Market-makers buy endowments from policyholders who want to cash in their endowment and realise investment gains. Often the price they offer is much higher than the surrender value available from the insurance company. Market-makers then sell on Teps to institutions and to private investors.

Rumours of consolidation and demutualisation in the life assurance market has fuelled demand for Teps from speculators hoping for a windfall. However, falling interest rates and modest growth in world stock markets are likely to affect the returns policyholders can expect in the future.

There are concerns that the huge demand for second-hand policies has forced up prices



Joe Palmer will be taking a careful look at the Teps system

and that projections for yields and maturity values given to investors should be scaled back. The PIA, whose chairman is Joe Palmer, has begun consulting the industry on how the projection rates for Teps should be set and it is likely to report on the issue next year.

A spokeswoman said: "We are keeping a watching brief on the issue. Market-makers have been lobbying for the industry to publicise the Teps market but we do not want to encourage this until we are sure that the system is working to customers' advantage."

Standard Life, the biggest name in UK life and pensions, is an outspoken critic of the Teps market and does not encourage policyholders to sell their stock on. A spokesman for Standard Life said: "We are uneasy about projection rates and do not want investors coming back to us in ten years' time because they are unhappy about the performance of their endowment policy."

Market-makers argue that they can offer policyholders up to 45 per cent more than insurance companies' surrender values, and that prices have not increased in the past two years. David Carrington, sales and marketing director of PolicyPlus International and a member of the Association of Policy Market Makers, accused Standard Life of "arrogance". He said: "They cannot accept that the value of a policy might be different from the value that their own actuaries have calculated."

"The question of projection rates affects the whole of the financial services industry, not just Teps. We believe policyholders know what they are buying and are aware that the future is not guaranteed. You get a clearer idea of the value of a policy that has bonuses already attached than you do if you are buying a new one."

Art and antiques sales soar in UK

BY CLARE STEWART

SALES of art and antiques by leading UK dealers have soared in the last year. New figures from the British Antique Dealers' Association show that members' turnover has risen by 50 per cent to £665 million.

Bada has 375 members, including leading dealers such as Richard Green, Asprey & Carran and S J Phillips. Half of the members reported an increase in sales, with picture dealers seeing the greatest sales increases.

Significant for the UK's role as an international art market was the finding that overseas buyers accounted for 50 per cent

of sales, up from 40 per cent in 1997. American buyers account for most of these sales. The figures, says Bada, "demonstrate British dealers' heavy reliance on international trade".

"The British dealers trade is a success story," commented John Bly, vice-chairman of Bada. "We want this success story to continue but this will only happen if the bureaucrats in Brussels realise the damage in Brussels that will be inflicted on the UK when next year they intend to double the rate of import VAT for antiques."

Biotechnology firms seek code of practice

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE biotechnology industry is planning to draw up a code of best practice in an attempt to prevent a repeat of the British Biotech controversy earlier this year.

British Biotech was accused of misleading investors because it failed to announce bad news emerging from drug trials, and to disclose adverse opinions from drug licensing regulators. The affair highlighted the tensions biotech firms can face when optimistic managements confront the differing obligations owed to regulators and to shareholders.

The Biotechnology Association (BIA) is trying to devise a voluntary code requiring member companies to ensure that their statements accurately reflect the state of development programmes. The code will also bring together many regulations by which they are already bound - including codes on corporate governance, the pharmaceutical industry codes of good clinical and manufacturing practice and advertising standards.

The initiative from Robert Mansfield, BIA chairman, is partly a response to a Commons committee inquiry into the British Biotech debacle.

Railtrack deal for Logica

RAILTRACK has hired Logica on a £10 million two-year contract to ensure the rail utility is not hit by the millennium bug. The software group is focusing on Railtrack's most pressing areas, including planning, timetable systems, track maintenance, scheduling and train management and monitoring. The work programme also includes billing the train operators and fault databases.

Alan Forder of Logica said Railtrack was a vast undertaking, calling for fast work to the most unyielding of deadlines. Logica is also working with Railtrack's third-party suppliers of information systems.

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EUROPE 47 Roger Bootle on why size doesn't matter

BUSINESS

DEALERS 50 Brussels paints bleak picture for art market

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

Funds wrangle may close UK biotech investor

BY PAUL DURMAN ROTHSCHILD Bioscience Unit (RBU), the leading British investor in the biotechnology industry, is facing possible closure because of a wrangle over the merger of two investment funds.

Rothschild Asset Management of £3 million in fees. On its own, the smaller International Biotechnology Trust (IBT) would be unable to support the estimated £2.5 million cost of running the RBU, which employs about 20 scientists and analysts.

among the first to spot the commercial significance of advances in molecular biology and biochemistry. Jeremy Curmook Cook, head of the RBU, would not comment on the suggestion that he is preparing to leave Rothschilds after 11 years.

investment trust whose chairman is John Green-Armytage. Both funds have performed badly in the last two years, not helped by their investments in Biocompatibles International, the medical coatings company, chaired by Mr Curmook Cook, which has lost more than 90 per cent of its peak value of £1 billion.

representation, restricts its ability to realise investments effectively. Mr Curmook Cook argues that high-risk biotech investments can only be judged over several years.

BIL's Guernsey domicile and a capital structure dominated by preference shares make it unattractive to many potential investors. But the problems in the UK biotech market have caused the discount on IBT's shares to widen to more than 40 per cent, hampering a merger deal.

much bigger, with net assets still worth £160 million. IBT's directors have much more healthcare experience than the Guernsey residents who dominate BIL's board.

Patriot poised to check out of Britain

BY DOMINIC WALSH

PATRIOT American Hospitality, the aggressive US hotel investor, is considering a sale of its UK assets, signalling the end of a frenzied drive by US real estate investment trusts (REITs) to pick up British properties.

Wall Street sources believe that, after the collapse of its share price and severe funding problems, Patriot may be seeking to sell Arcadian, the Surrey hotel operator it acquired in January for £92 million. Including debt and its share of joint ventures, the business is worth close to £200 million.

Industry sources believe that Robert Breare, the Arcadian chief executive and now president of Patriot's European division, is keen to buy back the company. He is known to have been contacted by City institutions willing to back such a move and is believed to have indicated his interest to Patriot.

Arcadian comprises 11 hotels in Britain and one in France as well as a 50-50 joint venture with Sir Terence Conran to redevelop the Great Eastern Hotel in the City of London.

But the jewel in the Arcadian crown is the Malmesbury brand, which Mr Breare

wants to roll out across Europe's gateway cities. So far it has just five properties open or under development - in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Manchester and Leeds - but sites in London, Birmingham and Paris are under negotiation, while Frankfurt, Brussels, Amsterdam, Milan and Madrid have all been targeted.

Patriot's decision to review its European development follows a disastrous summer, during which its share price has dived by 75 per cent. When it reported third-quarter results this month, Paul Nussbaum, chairman and chief executive of Patriot, admitted that its recent achievements had been "greatly diminished by significant world events, including a global credit crunch that has crippled the world's debt markets and temporarily delayed certain of our debt transactions".

Ironically, Arcadian was one of its best-performing divisions in the quarter. Malmesbury reported a 15.2 per cent rise in revenue per available room while its historic-style hotels advanced by 9.3 per cent.

REITs, principally Patriot, Starwood and Meditrust, Marriott and Hilton Hotels Corporation had lobbied for the change, claiming that the paired-share REITs enjoyed an unfair advantage over normal hotel companies.

The three REITs, collectively valued at \$4.5 billion (£2.8 billion) at the end of 1996, used this advantage to sign deals worth \$2.8 billion during 1997 alone. While Starwood snapped up ITT, owner of Sheraton Hotels, Patriot acquired the Westin and Wyndham chains. Wyndham is one of the brands it had pledged to develop across Europe and any deal with Mr Breare is likely to include a franchise or development agreement allowing the US group to expand the Wyndham brand without any financial exposure.

As recently as early summer, Patriot displayed an apparently insatiable appetite for deals, narrowly losing out to Bass in the race for Inter-Continental Hotels and looking closely at the likes of the Savoy Group, Cliveden, the Grosvenor House and Gleneagles before deciding not to bid.

But its recent woes mean its funds have dried up and the sale of its European assets may be forced upon it as it seeks to solve the problem of the \$1 billion-plus of debt repayment it faces over the next six months.



A management team led by Sarah Elton, above, managing director, is buying out Smythson, the upmarket stationers that is a favourite of royalty and film stars, from John Mendes for about £3 million.

Retailers braced for gloomy Christmas

BY MANUS COSTELLO AND DOMINIC WALSH

RETAILERS are bracing themselves for what could be the worst Christmas in two decades, according to research published today.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, estimates that sales in November will be just 0.8 per cent higher than last year at £16.7 billion, while December's sales will reach £20.5 billion - a rise of just less than 3 per cent. It also forecasts that re-

tailers will have about £1.6 billion of excess stock in the run-up to Christmas.

"This still represents growth on earlier years, but the rate of expansion is much lower than our major retail companies have come to expect," says the report. "Christmas has come to dominate the fortunes of many store groups, but this year will see a much more subdued role, with the lowest proportion of spending occurring over the period for two decades."

ed by Deloitte & Touche's annual survey, which found both retailers and consumers to be cautious in the build-up to the festive season. Although just 12 per cent of retailers are expecting a drop in turnover, that is three times as many as last year. On average, retailers expect sales to rise by between 1 per cent and 3 per cent.

The recent interest rate cuts are likely to improve the retail outlook, although Verdict believes that "a shift in consumer confidence will come too late

to bring seasonal cheer to retailers."

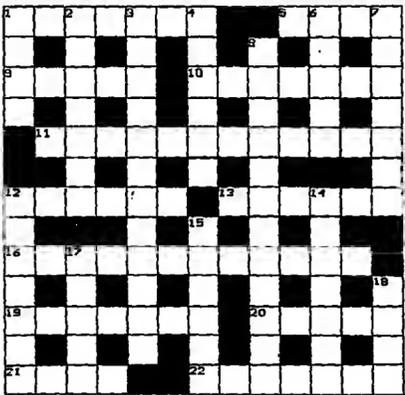
While food and convenience lines such as toiletries and newspapers are not expected to see a downturn, fashion and household goods retailers are thought to be particularly vulnerable.

Consumers may benefit from the retailers' woes, however, as the over-ordered stocks will need to be offloaded, perhaps prompting dramatic reductions in the January sales. Trends show con-

sumers are leaving spending later and later, with many waiting for price markdowns.

The figures come in the wake of the publication last week of official figures showing that retail sales were down 0.4 per cent between September and October, with the annual rate of growth at 1 per cent, the lowest since January 1996. Verdict concludes: "Such spending caution, if prolonged, could precipitate the very recessions that consumers fear."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1570

- ACROSS: 1 Conspirator; chart printer (7) 2 Assist (4) 9 Filled pleat (5) 10 Speculative effort (7) 11 Non-deliberate killing (12) 12 Trees eg of Lebanon (6) 13 Go past in steady flow (6) 16 Drink-fuelled boldness (5,7) 19 Type of pudding, of minister (7) 20 Conscious (6) (5) 21 Narrative poems; sounds like be idle (4) 22 Stronghold (7)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1569 ACROSS: 1 Succeed 5 Cadre 8 Fluke 9 Montage 10 Sunday school 12 Allots 14 Caddie 17 Put the boot in 21 Ordinal 22 Tense 23 Gusto 24 Widower DOWN: 1 Soft soap 2 Churn 3 Elegant 4 Demise 5 Conch 6 Diamond 7 Ewer 11 Reindeer 13 Lourdes 15 Aborted 16 Mellow 18 Tango 19 Throw 20 Long

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Bankers Trust in merger vote

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE Bankers Trust board met yesterday to vote on the \$9 billion (£5.5 billion) merger with Deutschebank.

Today's announcement is expected to give Germany's largest bank the US presence it has been craving for the past year. The Frankfurt-based bank that owns Morgan Grenfell in London is believed to be offering \$90 per Bankers Trust share. Bankers Trust shares climbed on Friday from \$72 to \$77.

The takeover could have serious implications for Bankers Trust operations in London. BT Alex Brown, its brokerage,

overlaps heavily with Morgan Grenfell, provoking fears in the City that a takeover would lead to a shake-out comparable with the merger between Swiss Bank Corporation and UBS. That deal disposed of many UBS jobs and Bankers Trust may be forced to cut staff in a Deutsche merger.

Alternatively, some BT Alex Brown executives could push for a buyout or a spin-off, so the brokerage would survive with fewer redundancies. Deutsche earlier courted JP Morgan and Lehman Brothers to compete with Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, who are threatening Deutsche's position on its German home turf.

GRE to consider £3bn sale

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange, the insurance company, is this week expected to confirm that it is considering a £3 billion takeover sale of the company after receiving approaches from a string of suitors (Dominic Walsh writes).

The wave of consolidation among insurers has sparked interest in GRE from the likes of AXA-UAP and AGF, both from France. Germany's Allianz and AIG of the US. Pressure for a deal is thought to have come from institutional shareholders unhappy at GRE's recent performance. Last month its shares traded at 230p, their lowest since 1995. In recent weeks, speculation over a possible merger has seen a rally to 306p.

EU steelmakers' action stirs fresh rift with US

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

AN anti-dumping complaint to be filed in Brussels today by European steel producers will worsen the bubbling trade row between the US and the European Union and cause a new headache for EU Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert.

Eurofer, the European steel lobby group, is filing a complaint with the European Commission over cheap steel imports from Taiwan, India, Iran, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and South Africa. The action concerns imports of hot-rolled coil, a product that has plunged 30 per cent in price, threatening European producers, including



Moffat: eye on Washington

British Steel, which this week gave warning of losses. The flood of cheap product stems from the financial problems of Asian and East Euro-

pean producers who are desperate for hard currency. But British Steel, led by Sir Brian Moffat, reckons that a 15 per cent collapse in the price over the last 6-8 weeks may have been caused by events in Washington, rather than Asia.

US steel producers are raging about Asian and Russian dumping of hot-rolled coil and both employer and union bodies are clamouring for anti-dumping duties to avoid job losses. Complaints have been filed against Russia, Brazil and Japan and Europeans fear that Asian steel that was headed for the US will now be looking for a home in Europe. One steel industry source said: "Diverted Asian steel has not kicked in yet but it will do so soon."

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